

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

January 16, 2001

The Honorable Bill Cohen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to our attention that you have been asked to defer the Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) decision on F-22 in order to let the new Administration review the status of the program and to allow additional time to complete more testing.

In his confirmation hearing last week, Secretary-designee Rumsfeld indicated that it might be some time before his staff was nominated, confirmed, and in place. Furthermore, he implied that a review of all major DoD programs would be undertaken and that such a review could take several months.

Allowing a Defense Acquisition Board to make a decision on LRIP for the F-22 would in no way foreclose any option for the Bush Administration. However, we strongly believe that deferring this decision would induce a lengthy delay that will result in serious contractual issues as well as adversely impact program cost and schedule.

While it is true the program's progress in completing scheduled tests has been unpredictably delayed, the fact is that the number of test points completed never was a criterion for LRIP approval. Both the Congress and the Department of Defense clearly established a set of exit criteria for LRIP and these will be completed soon. It is important to emphasize two important facts: 1) No new fighter development program in history will have conducted as much testing prior to an LRIP decision; and 2) The F-22 program is sound and meeting or exceeding all technical requirements.

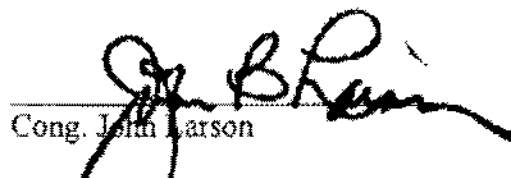
We strongly urge you not to defer the decision to move forward with the low rate production of the F-22. The F-22 is the only program that will ensure total dominance of the skies for U.S. combat forces well into the middle of this century and it is ready to move into Low Rate Initial Production.

Sincerely,


Cong. Saxby Chambliss


Cong. Rosa DeLauro


Cong. Kay Granger


Cong. John Larson


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1072011



Cong. Johnny Isakson



Cong. Bob Barr



Cong. Jim Maloney

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

SECRET

2001 FEB 16 PM 12:22

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon, #3E880
Washington, DC 20301

February 12, 2001

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the status of the Army's Aviation Modernization Plan. It is vital to immediately address readiness issues in the National Guard, as well as the Guard's ability to support the National Military Strategy and to respond to critical emergencies across the United States.

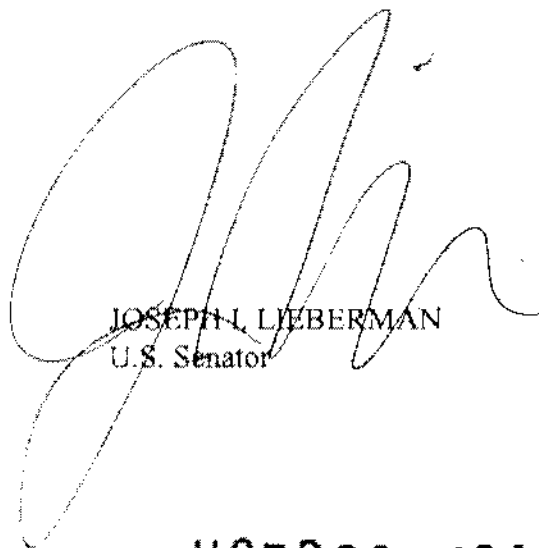
We understand that in the Army's current Aviation Modernization Plan, the Army National Guard accounts for fifty percent of the Army's utility aviation fleet force structure. The Plan also reportedly requires the Army National Guard to turn in over 700 legacy helicopters without adequately funding the procurement of new UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to replace them. This will leave Army National Guard units across the nation fielded at less than two-thirds of their requirement and short over 300 aircraft. At present procurement rates, the Army National Guard will not be fully modernized until 2025.

As you know, the on-going Department of Defense Army Aviation Modernization review provides an opportunity for you to address this critical issue and to fully fund this shortage. We ask that you take immediate steps to ensure a final plan is reached as efficiently and effectively as possible, and that this issue is given serious consideration. Until then, an increase in Blackhawks is vital to keep production and cost at levels that are optimal to meet the procurement requirements of the final Army Modernization Plan. At that time, we would greatly appreciate a summary of the National Guard's final modernization plan to address the essential requirement of Blackhawks, and look forward to working with you on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER DODD
U.S. Senator



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
U.S. Senator


U03228 /01



ROSA L. DeLAURO
U.S. Representative



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
U.S. Representative



NANCY L. JOHNSON
U.S. Representative



JAMES H. MALONEY
U.S. Representative



JOHN B. LARSON
U.S. Representative



ROB SIMMONS
U.S. Representative

FROM

(FBI) 3. 2'01 14:24/ST. 13:56/NO. 4862853525 P. 2

Congress of the United States

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2001

2001 MAR -2 PM 4:25

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are well aware, unless a decision is made to move forward on the Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) of the F-22, America's most advanced tactical fighter aircraft, funding will run out on March 31, 2001. We are very concerned that further delay will effectively kill the Air Force's number one modernization program that former Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen once called "the cornerstone of our nation's global air power in the 21st century."

Our current air superiority fighter, the F-15, has served us well but is rapidly aging. It will be nearly 30 years old when the F-22 comes on line in 2005. The F-15 is threatened today by the advanced surface-to-air and air-to-air missile systems that are proliferating among potential foes of the United States. Additionally, advanced fighters being developed by other nations today will be able to outperform the venerable F-15 in the near future.

The F-22 is a critical asset for our ability to fight and win future wars. This aircraft represents a qualitative leap in our ability to control the air and enable our attack aircraft, like the future Joint Strike Fighter, to destroy enemy ground forces at will. These are complementary systems. The F-22 combines stealth, supercruise, and integrated avionics, (none of which are available in the F-15) to dominate the skies. The JSF will be designed mainly for the ground-attack role, and it will leverage technologies that have been developed for the F-22. In fact, without the F-22, the JSF will have to be redesigned and reconfigured to meet the requirements that our military will face in the future. This will result in significant delay and increase in cost to the JSF program.

The F-22 represents 15 years of development and strong bipartisan Congressional support. We have already invested \$18 billion in rigorous testing. While the F-22 program's progress in completing scheduled tests was unpredictably delayed, both the Congress and the Department of Defense clearly established a set of exit criteria for Low Rate Initial Production that have been completed. It is important to emphasize two important facts: 1) No new fighter development program in history will have conducted as much testing prior to an LRIP decision; and 2) The F-22 program is sound and meeting or exceeding all technical requirements.

We agree with the April 27, 1998, statement signed by you and six other former Secretaries of Defense stating that "the F-22 must be funded" and that "it is essential that this program succeed." We strongly urge you not to defer the decision to move forward with the low rate production of the F-22. The F-22 is the only program that will ensure total dominance of the skies for U.S. combat forces well into the middle of this century

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FROM

(FRI) 3. 2 '01 14:25/ST. 13:56/NO. 4862853525 P 3

and it is ready to move into Low Rate Initial Production. We need the F-22 now, but it isn't scheduled to enter the force until 2005. If the F-22 does not enter the force, we may forfeit something that should never be taken for granted and one of the greatest advantages our military currently holds — control of the air. We must ensure that America's military has the best equipment and best weapons to protect and defend our nation and American interests overseas. The brave men and women who provide the margin of our freedom and liberty deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,


Cong. Brady Charnbliss


Cong. Rosa DeLauro


Cong. Dick Arney


Cong. Cliff Stearns


Cong. Johnny Isakson


Cong. Sanford Bishop



Cong. Lamar Smith


Cong. Jim Saxton


Cong. Pete Sessions


Cong. John Larson


Cong. Ray Granger

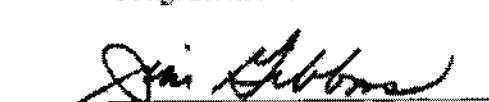

Cong. Norm Dicks



Cong. Bob Barr


Cong. Jim Maloney


Cong. Kevin Brady


Cong. Ronnie Shows


Cong. Jim Gibbons


Cong. John Hostettler

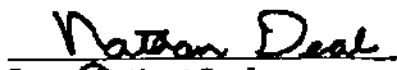
FROM

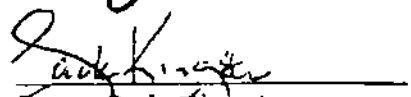
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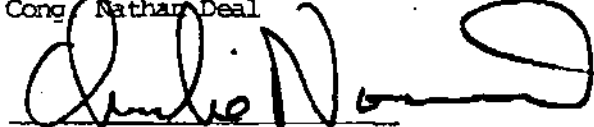
The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Page 3
March 2, 2001


Cong. Jim Hansen


Cong. Nancy Johnson


Cong. Nathan Deal


Cong. Jack Kingston

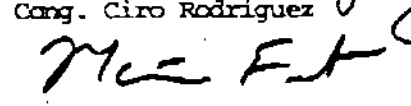

Cong. Charlie Norwood


Cong. Chip Pickering


Cong. James McGovern



Cong. Ciro Rodriguez


Cong. Joe Barton

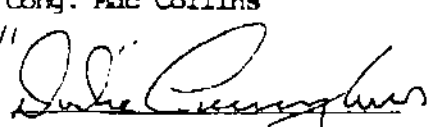

Cong. Martin Frost


Cong. Gene Green

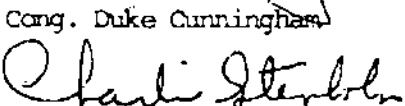

Cong. Floyd Spence


Cong. Mac Collins


Cong. Bob Riley


Cong. Duke Cunningham

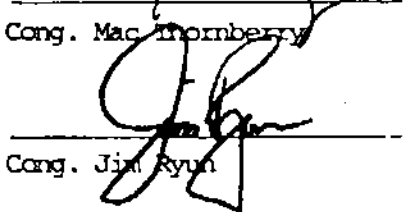

Cong. Walter Jones

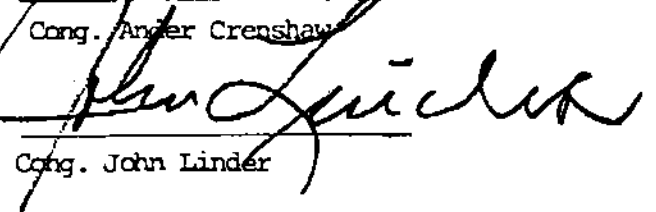

Cong. Charles Stenholm


Cong. Ralph Hall


Cong. Mac Thornberry


Cong. Ander Crenshaw


Cong. Jim Ryun


Cong. John Linder

FROM

(FRI) 3. 2' 01 14:25/ST. 13:56/NO. 4862853525 P 5

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Page 4
March 2, 2001



Cong. Sam Johnson



Cong. John Cooksey



Cong. Robin Hayes



Cong. Mike Bilirakis



Cong. Mark Foley



Cong. Henry Bonilla



Cong. Joe Scarborough



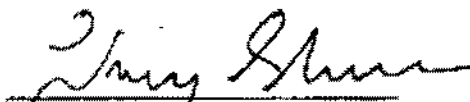
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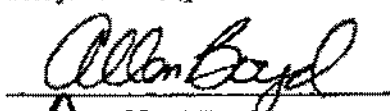
Cong. Ruben Hinojosa



Cong. Christopher Shays



Cong. Lindsey Graham



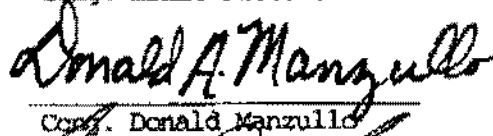
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Cong. Chet Edwards



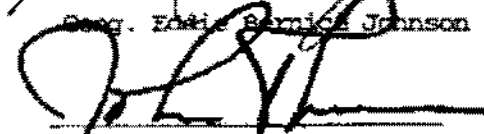
Cong. Ernie Fletcher



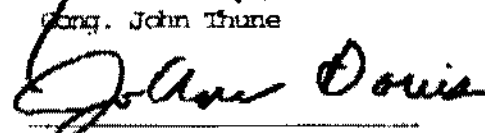
Cong. Donald Manzullo



Cong. Eddie Bernice Johnson



Cong. John Thune



Cong. Jo Ann Davis



Cong. Rob Simmons

FROM

(FRI) 3. 2' 01 14:25/ST. 13:56/NO. 4862853525 P 6

59 Members signed F-22 letter [R-42, D-17, 21 states]

Saxby Chambliss	John Larson
Rosa DeLauro	Kay Granger
Dick Armey	Norm Dicks
Cliff Stearns	Bob Barr
Johnny Isakson	James Maloney
Sanford Bishop	Kevin Brady
Lamar Smith	Ronnie Shows
Jim Saxton	Jim Gibbons
Pete Sessions	John Hostettler
Jim Hansen	Nancy Johnson
Nathan Deal	Jack Kingston
Charlie Norwood	Chip Pickering
James McGovern	Ciro Rodriguez
Joe Barton	Martin Frost
Gene Green	Floyd Spence
Mac Collins	Bob Riley
Duke Cunningham	Walter Jones
Charlie Stenholm	Ralph Hall
Mac Thornberry	Ander Crenshaw
Jim Ryun	John Linder
Sam Johnson	Lindsey Graham
John Cooksey	Allen Boyd
Robin Hayes	Chet Edwards
Michael Bilirakis	Ernie Fletcher
Mark Foley	Donald Manzullo
Henry Bonilla	Eddie Bernice Johnson
Joe Scarborough	John Thune
Gerald Kleczka	Jo Ann Davis
Ruben Hinojosa	Rob Simmons
Christopher Shays	

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

2002 JAN 31 PM 12:56

January 30, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to you to bring to your attention a matter of great importance to Connecticut and to the Department of Defense: the "buying-out" of the Army's requirement of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

As you know, the current Multi-Year contract for UH-60 helicopters, which runs through FY06, calls for the procurement of 124 Black Hawks. This leaves the Army 44 Black Hawks short of its overall requirement of 1,680 aircraft. We respectfully urge you to support the buying-out of this remaining requirement.

The Army can achieve a cost avoidance of at least \$213 million or \$1 million per aircraft through this buy-out. It is our understanding that Sikorsky and the Army have already agreed upon a plan to spread out those 44 aircraft across the Multi-Year contract in order to achieve maximum economic order quantities. All that is now required to realize this tremendous cost savings is the up front investment from the Army and the Department of Defense. Any assistance you could provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We strongly urge your support. The H-60 helicopter is essential to our national defense.

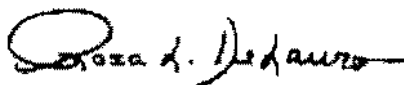


Christopher J. Dodd
 United States Senator

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
 United States Senator



Rosa L. DeLauro
 United States Representative



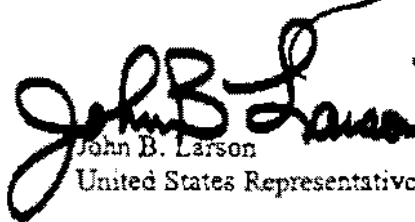
Nancy L. Johnson
 United States Representative



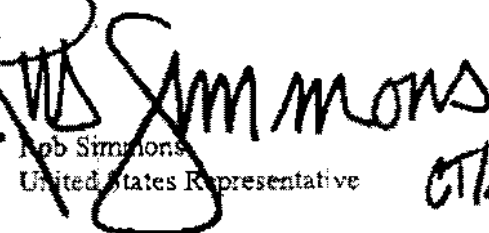
Christopher Shays
 United States Representative



James H. Maloney
 United States Representative



John B. Larson
 United States Representative



Rob Simmons
 United States Representative

CT/2

U01863 /02

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SECRET
203 JUN 16 PM 3:26

January 15, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to call your attention to section 1403 of Public Law 107-314, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. As you may know, this section requires that you establish an additional 23 Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs) and that at least one team be located in each state and territory of the United States. It also requires that you submit to Congress a report that includes a schedule for the establishment, manning, equipping, and training of these teams, a budget estimate for these new teams, and a discussion of whether the mission of the WMD-CSTs should be expanded.

As Senators representing the 19 states that currently have part-time WMD-CSTs, we urge you to work to ensure that the necessary resources to establish, train, and equip the additional 23 teams that are required by this Act are made a part of the Administration's budget request for fiscal year 2004. We also ask that you ensure that sufficient funding and increases in National Guard end-strength are included to provide for the additional 506 full-time National Guard personnel that will be required to man these new teams. Given the important role that the men and women of the National Guard play in our ongoing missions at home and abroad, we should ensure that the establishment of these important teams does not put at risk full-time manning in other vital areas of the National Guard's mission.

There are currently 32 full-time and 23 part-time WMD-CSTs across the country. As you know, the emerging chemical, biological, and other threats of the 21st century present new challenges to our military and to local first responders. The WMD-CSTs play a vital role in assisting local first responders in investigating and combating these new threats. The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks emphasize the need to have full-time WMD-CSTs in each state. As the events of that day so clearly and tragically demonstrated, local first responders are on the front lines of combating terrorism and responding to other large-scale incidents. As we rethink the security needs of our country, we hope that you will

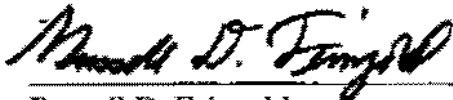
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Letter to Secretary Rumsfeld, Page 2


support the creation of the additional 23 full-time WMD-CSTs as soon as possible. We believe that such a transition will improve the overall capability of our states to respond to potential threats in the future.

We look forward to reviewing your report, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,




Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator



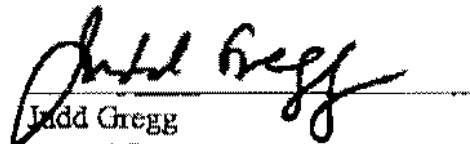
Gordon Smith
United States Senator



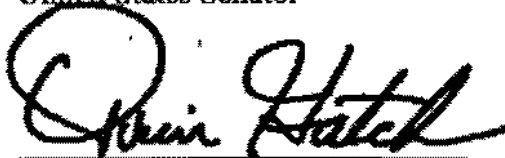
Tim Johnson
United States Senator



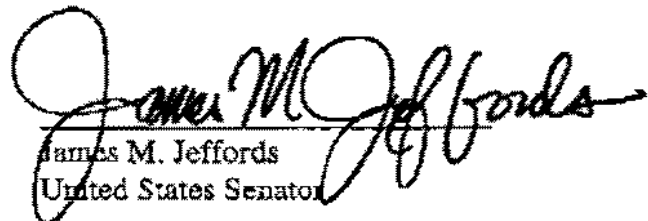
Harry Reid
United States Senator



Judd Gregg
United States Senator

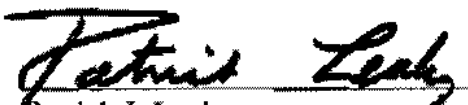


Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator



James M. Jeffords
United States Senator

Letter to Secretary Rumsfeld, Page 3



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



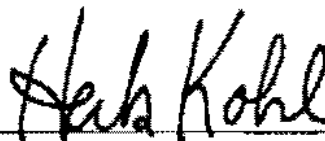
Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



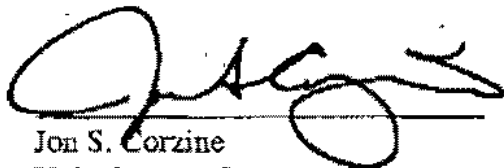
Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator



E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator



Herb Kohl
United States Senator



Jon S. Corzine
United States Senator



Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senator



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

January 21, 2004

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

We are writing to express profound concern regarding recent media reports which suggest a pattern of mishandling sexual assault allegations within the United States Armed Forces. We are particularly concerned that some of these cases involved soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Failure to adequately respond to sexual assault reports has the potential to jeopardize the morale of our armed forces, and undermine the very values that our country is trying to promote in Iraq: human rights, respect for women, and the rule of law.

Our greater concern is whether the Department of Defense has effective measures in place to respond to sexual assault allegations in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of victims. Thus, we request a comprehensive review of existing procedures for investigating and prosecuting sexual assault offenses within the military justice system. We also request your assessment of victim care and support programs, with special emphasis on how these programs are functioning within Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

It is essential that every soldier, sailor, airman and marine feel comfortable in coming forward to report sexual harassment or assault. It is our sense that female service members face greater difficulties in this area. In too many instances, women have described a culture within the military that discourages reporting, ignores allegations, and neglects victims. A recent article in the Denver Post quotes a soldier who was told to forget an alleged rape and "drive on." This is unacceptable.

We believe that victims should have prompt access to appropriate medical care and counseling regardless of where they serve, and that perpetrators of sexual assault should be swiftly brought to justice. Thousands of women are deployed in Iraq and the surrounding region. All are far from family and loved ones; all have chosen the path of service. These women must know that the military services are committed to protecting them from offensive assault.

OSD 01517-04

As Members of the United States Congress, we are committed to preserving the integrity of our Armed Services, and to ensuring that our servicemen and women are treated with the utmost dignity and respect. We stand ready to assist you in achieving that goal, and look forward to your thoughtful and timely response. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sanchez

Wi Lyde

Ellen Tauscher

De Cooper

Susan A. Davis

Mantyl Muehan

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Isobelle Evans

Jamy Baldwin

Stephane Piller Jones

Jana DeLitta

Barbara Lee

Leis Caputo

Dennis J. Kucinich

Miguel R. Alem

Carolyn B. Maloney

Madie Waters

Lut R.

Earl Blumenauer

Mr. Fran

Louise Slaughter

Betty McCall

Johnnie Johnson

Jim McPon

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to you to express our continued support for the F/A-22 Raptor and RAH-66 Comanche programs and to register our concern with another proposed review of these programs.

Two weeks ago, we were pleased to see the Administration's commitment to the F/A-22 and Comanche by fully funding both programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget request to Congress. The request for these funds sends a strong message that both programs are of vital importance to the Department of Defense (DoD) and the future of our nation's military. It also supports our belief, shared by many officials in your Department, that the F/A-22 and Comanche will be state-of-the-art, stealthy, tactical aircraft capable of completely transforming the nature of modern combat.

Currently, we are concerned about reports stating that OMB is requesting yet another study of these programs. We are astounded as this review comes just months after each program has been successfully re-reviewed and/or restructured, barely two weeks after the release of the FY2005 budget request, and just over a year before the Department is scheduled to once again start preparing its comprehensive Quadrennial Defense Review. It is our understanding that the study is to focus on the extent to which these programs fit into the current DoD transformation efforts, how well they can fulfill current or future mission requirements, a cost-benefit analysis of potential alternatives to these programs, and whether or not these programs are meeting their stated objectives. Prior reviews have delivered clear answers to these questions. Each has concluded that these programs are vital to the future of our armed services.

We find the commissioning of yet another such study at this stage troubling. Both programs were closely scrutinized during the extensive and comprehensive two-year review of DOD programs and policies you undertook shortly after being confirmed Secretary. Fourteen months ago, the Comanche program was again the target of two similar reviews that led to the complete restructuring of the program. In his findings the DoD's Inspector General stated that recent changes to the Comanche program will "increase the stability of the program." The F/A-22 has also been through extensive reviews, program changes/adjustments, and strict Congressional oversight.

The F/A-22 and Comanche remain critical centerpieces of our future national security capability. They are also key enablers of the military transformation required to ensure air superiority over the future battle-space and to guarantee that all other assets the military can bring to bear may be employed and engaged to win the fight. Current operational assets cannot

OSD 04322-04

be further modified to encompass new stealth technologies, revolutionary new propulsion systems, or other technologies needed to protect pilots from advanced surface to air missiles and air defenses. Unlike other programs, current operations in the global war on terror and the emerging national strategy both validate the capabilities these platforms are poised to provide.

The 2001 QDR highlighted the need to recapitalize tactical aircraft due to the aging of the current force structure and the nature and distribution of advanced air defense systems. It noted that on average, the age of Air Force air superiority aircraft now stands at almost 20 years. It further stated that future adversaries could have the means to render ineffective much of our current ability to project military power overseas, and that advanced air defense systems could deny access to hostile airspace to all but low-observable aircraft, aircraft such as the F/A-22 and Comanche. We could not agree more.

We remain confident that the study of these programs will once again showcase their important role in service-wide transformation and their success at meeting or exceeding established milestones. However, we must question, as you often have, the consequences to programs and their resources that a continuing barrage of such studies represents.

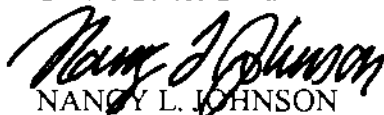
It is critical that this Administration quickly affirm its support for these programs to prevent unwanted actions during the FY05 budget process that could adversely impact the cost efficiencies and delay the schedule of these programs.

We appreciate your immediate attention on this important matter and look forward to working with you to move the Comanche and F/A-22 programs forward in support of the DoD's future force. If we can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



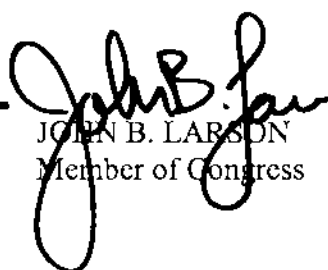
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senate



NANCY L. JOHNSON
Member of Congress



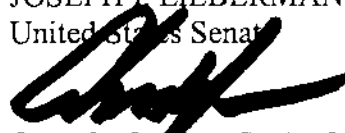
ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



ROB SIMMONS
Member of Congress

cc: Joshua Bolten

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
Room 3E880
The Pentagon, 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our deep disappointment with yesterday's announcement that the awarding of the contract for the replacement of the Presidential helicopter fleet (VXX) has been indefinitely suspended. While we appreciate the importance of a robust selection process, we are concerned that this decision will have enormously negative consequences for our national defense and our state. We also request more detailed information about the new decision-making time line. Further, as today's news reports indicate, whether intentional or not, this announcement suggests that the Administration may be putting off this decision until after the election in order to avoid criticism if it ultimately awards the VXX contract to a European consortium.

A lengthy delay in the VXX project will have serious effects on two military capabilities in particular. The current Presidential helicopter fleet does not have adequate counter-terrorism capabilities, a feature that will be included in the new VXX aircraft. Additionally, we understand that new technologies employed in the VXX project will be applied to the Air Force's next generation Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) aircraft.

We are also concerned that the impact of this decision on the economy of our state could be severe. The Army's recent decision to cancel the Comanche program may result in the loss of many jobs at Sikorsky Aircraft, headquartered in Stratford, Connecticut. Sikorsky has previously indicated to us that, should it win this contract, many of those jobs would be reprogrammed to the Presidential helicopter fleet project. A lengthy delay in the award of this contract will make this job-preservation strategy much more difficult, if not impossible. It is therefore imperative that you quickly provide us with specific details about the anticipated length of delay in the contract award decision.

0 SD 04374-04

Secretary Rumsfeld
Page Two

We are also interested in learning more about the Navy's concern that "the dialogue on the specifications and the industry strategies needed to be extended." Yesterday's decision was made despite the fact that the Navy has recently completed test flights of prototype aircraft from both major competitors. Additionally, each company has repeatedly affirmed that its product is capable of meeting all specifications by the scheduled low-rate production time. Given the intense competition for this contract and the fact that prototype aircraft became available within three months of the contract announcement, we are surprised that the Navy apparently believes that proposals it has received are in need of significant revision.

Finally, it is also important that you provide to Congress specific information about the length of delay in the contract award decision. The President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget includes a request for \$777 million for the development of the new Presidential helicopter fleet. Without greater clarity regarding the Navy's new timetable, the President's request for VXX funding could be redirected.

We understand that the decision to postpone this contract award was made by Mike Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. We therefore request a meeting with Under Secretary Wynne as soon as possible to discuss the issues surrounding this decision.


We thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,


ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress


CHRISTOPHER DODD
United States Senator


JOSEPH LIEBERMAN
United States Senator


JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2004

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

We are writing on behalf of the millions of Americans, including private citizens and members of the military who live or are serving overseas, to request your assistance on a matter of great urgency.

As you know, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) at the Department of Defense is responsible for helping both military and civilian Americans who reside abroad exercise their right to vote by absentee ballot. The FVAP produces the Federal Post Card Application that overseas Americans use to request an absentee ballot.

However, the FVAP is now having trouble producing enough copies of the application for all the overseas voters. Traditionally, this office provides hundreds of thousands of applications to expedite the process of obtaining absentee ballots. Apparently, new spending restrictions or new procedures have prompted the FVAP to only print voting forms in small batches. In order for applications to be processed in a timely manner, all the forms must be distributed immediately. Mailing small batches of forms over many months is simply unworkable.

As we write to you, millions of Americans around the globe are wishing to register for their absentee ballots. Without access to the Federal Post Card Applications, this process becomes significantly more difficult. One overseas organization received only a fraction of what they needed, and they were told that they could only receive 200 forms per request. The FVAP offered to send CD-ROMs so that voter registration volunteers could print out their own supplies. The cost of that printing would have to be borne by unpaid volunteers. We do not believe that voter registration volunteers should have to pay for supplies needed to help Americans register to vote. Furthermore, we have learned that many U.S. embassies also are running out of voting supplies, and that some, including in Singapore, which has a sizable American population, have already run out.


Without the Post Card Applications, it will be harder for Americans living overseas to exercise their right to vote. Therefore, we respectfully request that you act immediately to print and distribute the necessary forms so that American citizens, including military personnel, will be able to vote in elections this year. We also ask that you ensure that the recently activated National Guard and Reserves have the forms that they need to obtain an absentee ballot.

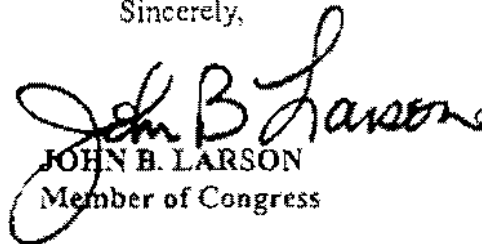
OSD 06417-04

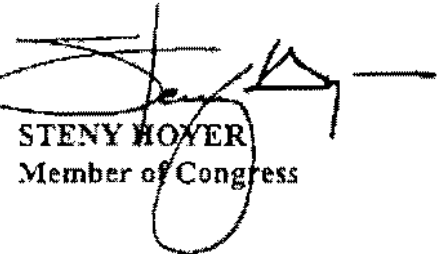
We are certain that you agree that as Americans are fighting for democracy in Iraq, they should be able to exercise their right to vote in the United States.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

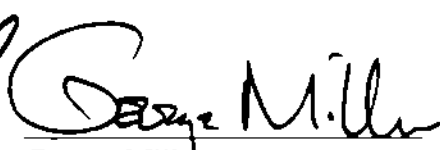

STENY HOYER
Member of Congress

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Sincerely,



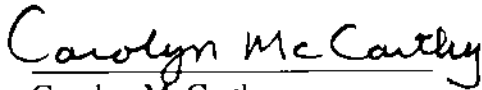
Chris Bell
Member of Congress



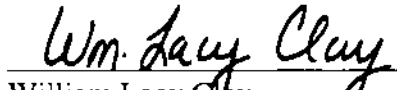
George Miller
Member of Congress



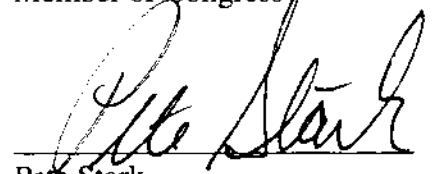
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



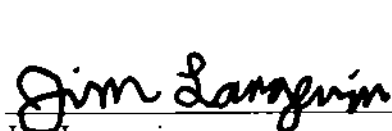
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



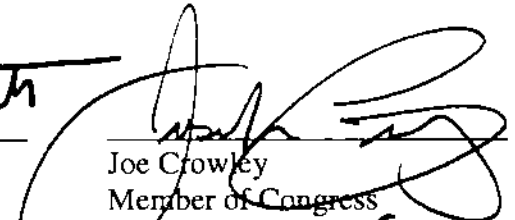
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



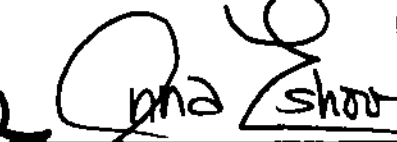
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



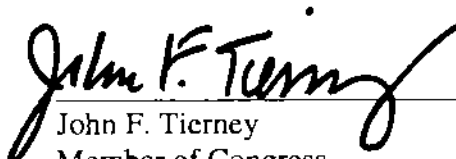
Mark Udall
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Max Sandlin
Member of Congress



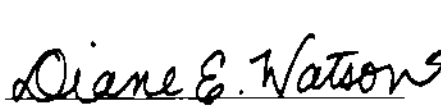
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



Harold E. Ford Jr.
Member of Congress



Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress



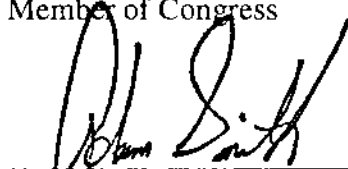
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



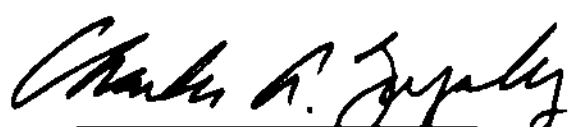
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Ted Strickland
Ted Strickland
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Nick Lampson
Nick Lampson
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

William Delahunt
William Delahunt
Member of Congress

Patrick J. Kennedy
Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Rahm Emanuel
Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone Jr.
Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

Ellen O. Tauscher
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress

Tom Udall
Tom Udall
Member of Congress

Joseph Hoeffel
Joseph Hoeffel
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Kendrick B. Meek
Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress

Brian Baird
Brian Baird
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Timothy H. Bishop
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

Karen McCarthy
Karen McCarthy
Member of Congress

Dennis Moore
Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Sam Farr
Member of Congress

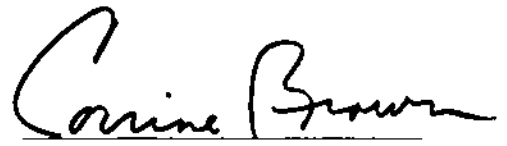
Raúl M. Grijalva
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



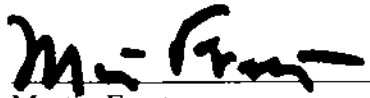
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



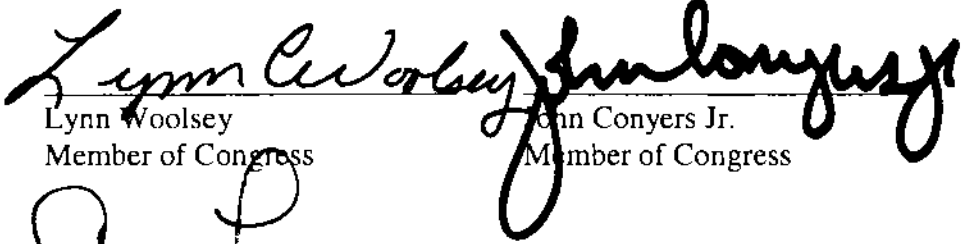
Martin Frost
Member of Congress



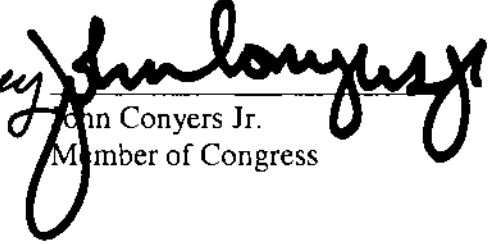
Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



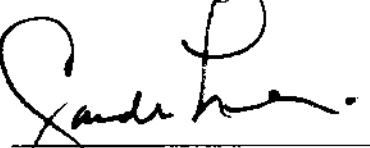
Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



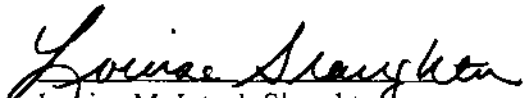
John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



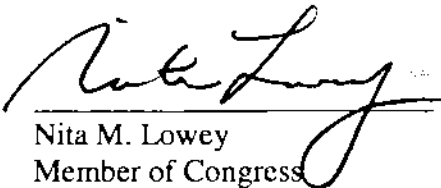
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



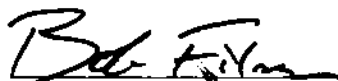
Sander Levin
Member of Congress



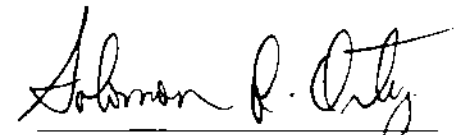
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



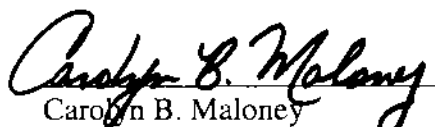
Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress



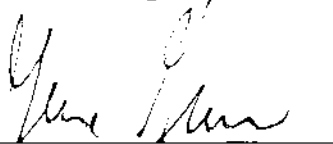
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



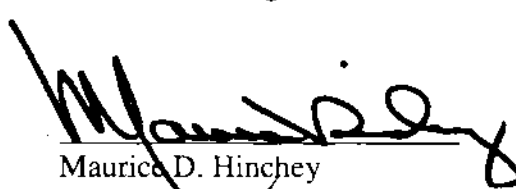
Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



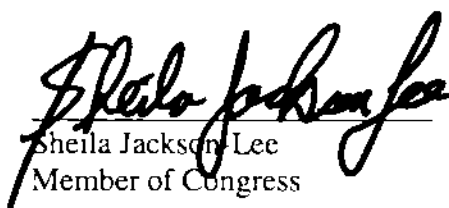
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



Artur Davis
Member of Congress



Martin Olav Sabo
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



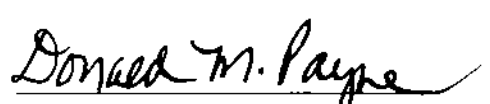
Lincoln Davis
Member of Congress



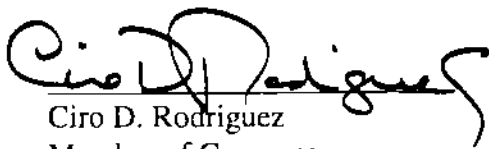
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



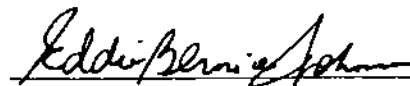
Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress



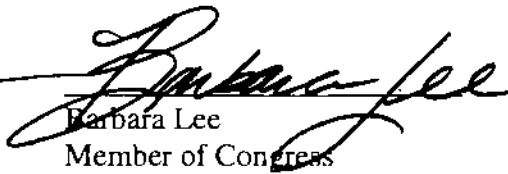
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



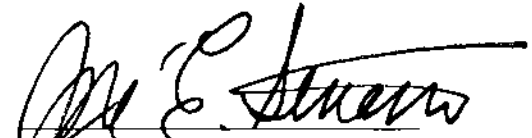
Lane Evans
Member of Congress



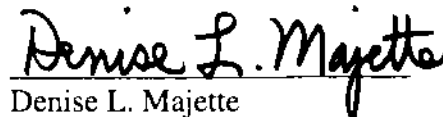
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Denise L. Majette
Member of Congress



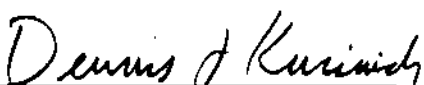
Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress



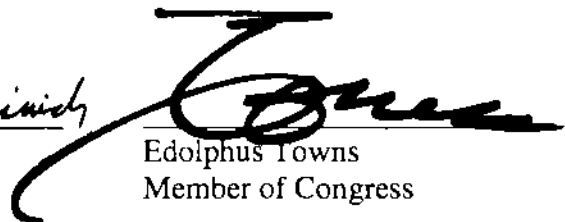
Martin T. Meehan
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



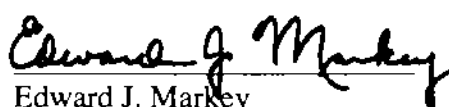
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



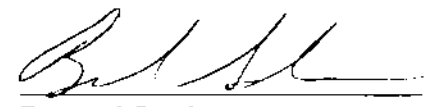
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



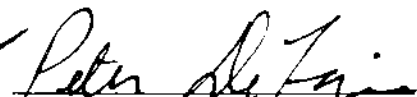
Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress



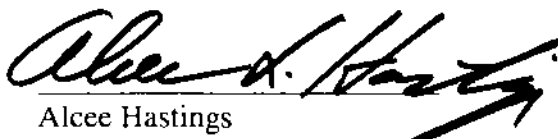
Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress



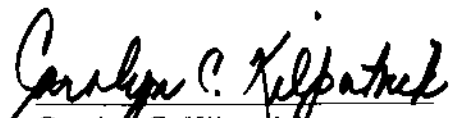
Julia Carson
Member of Congress



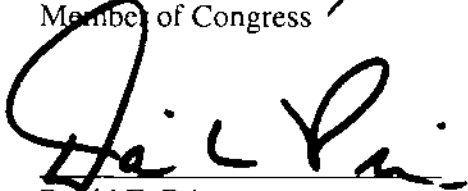
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



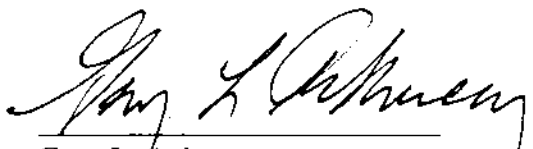
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



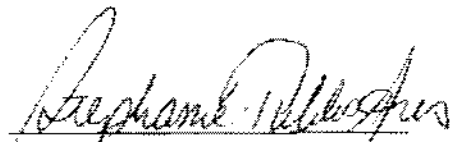
Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress




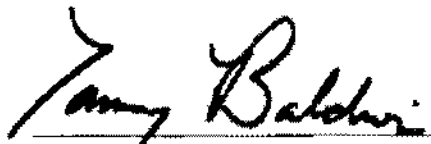
David E. Price
Member of Congress

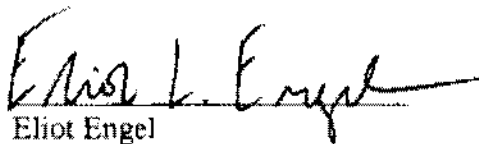


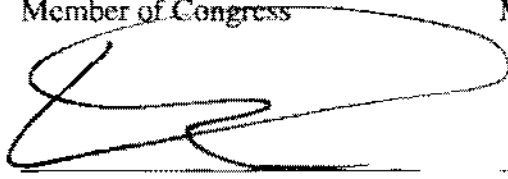
Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress

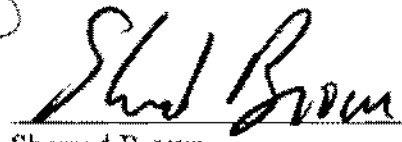

Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress

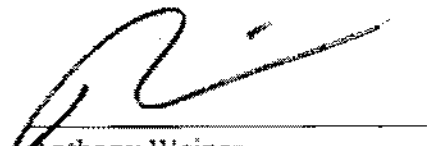

Benjamin Cardin
Member of Congress

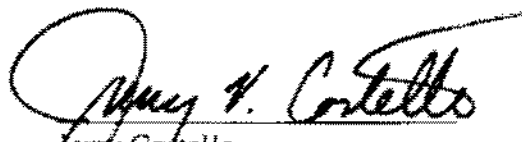

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

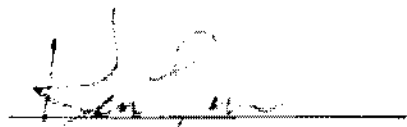

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

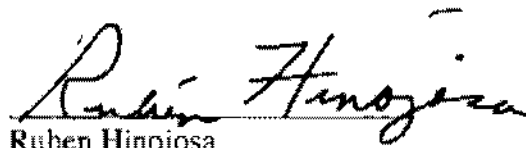

David Wu
Member of Congress

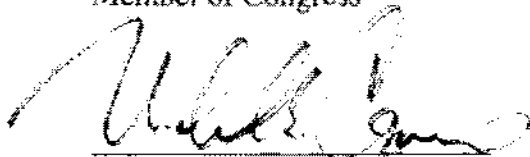

Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress

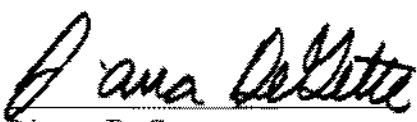

Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress



Jerry Costello
Member of Congress

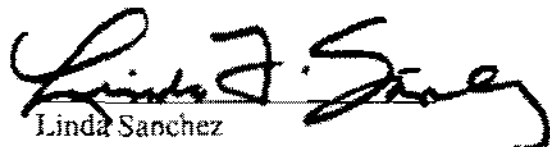

Ken Lucas
Member of Congress

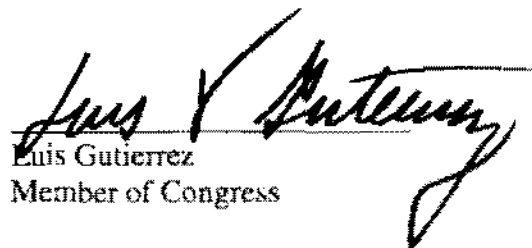

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

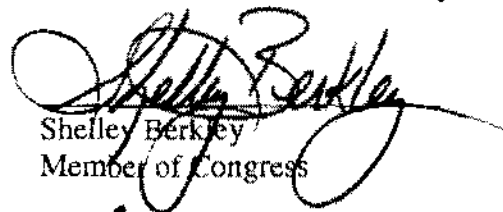

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

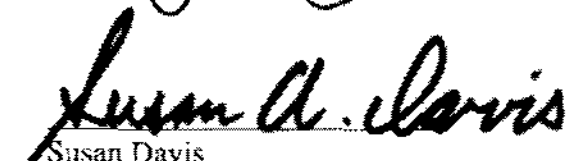

Dianna DeGette
Member of Congress

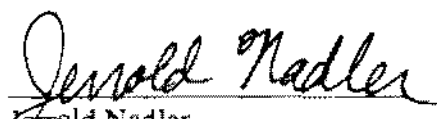

Tom Allen
Member of Congress


Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress


Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress


Susan Davis
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

2005 JAN 12 PM 11:43

January 10, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you know, Section 351 of Public Law 108-375, the Fiscal Year 2005 Defense Authorization Act (HR 4200), provides for reimbursement to troops or family members for the cost of body armor or other protective, health, or safety related equipment purchased for use in Afghanistan and Iraq while this equipment was in short supply.

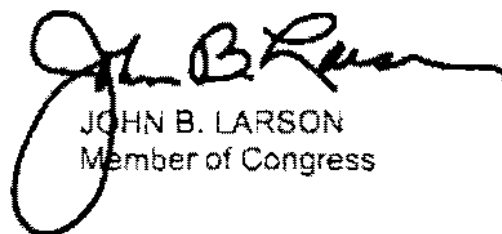
We are interested in receiving an update from you or your staff to discuss the progress being made in implementing this section of the law and in the process you are developing to facilitate these reimbursements as was instructed in the law. As you can imagine, the troops and family members who were forced to buy these items at their own expense are understandably eager to be reimbursed for these costs.

Please feel free to contact us directly, or Jonathan Renfrew in Rep. Larson's office at jon.renfrew@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2265, or Neal Orringer in Senator Dodd's office at neal_orringer@dodd.senate.gov or 202-224-2823 to arrange an update. We look forward to working with you to see that this matter is addressed appropriately and expeditiously.

Respectfully,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senate



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

encl.

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In his State of the Union Address, President Bush pledged that Iraqi security forces will "become more self-reliant and take on greater security responsibilities," allowing Coalition forces to serve increasingly in a "supporting role." But last week, Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace, Director of Army Operations, affirmed that the Army plans to maintain its current presence of 120,000 troops in Iraq until 2007. The Iraqi security forces' skill level, loyalty to the transitional government and willingness to confront insurgents are clearly preeminent factors in shaping future U.S. policy choices in Iraq. While Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the current Iraqi security and military forces stand at 120,000 strong, these numbers do not accurately reflect the number of currently-enlisted and capable Iraqi troops. At this critical juncture, Congress must be fully informed of Gen. Luck's findings on the status of Iraqi military, security services and police.

Mr. Secretary, America's mission in Iraq must be changed to place an increased emphasis on the training of Iraqi recruits as a means of both stabilizing Iraq and bringing our troops home. As we prepare to vote on the additional \$80 billion funding request, Congress will have abdicated its responsibility to the American people if we write a blank check without the necessary analysis, insight and information from the Department of Defense. General Luck's findings are essential to this process, and we look forward to your expeditious and detailed response.

Sincerely,

Robert Weiss
Robert Menendez
Ann Dunn
[Signature]
Ellen Tauber

Mark Mehl
Neil Abernethy
Tammy Baldwin
Jim Leback
Jim McDermott

Bill Sand

Howard L. Berner

George Wilbur

Shirley Brown

Melvin Waters

Ken V. Cutler

Paul Blumenthal

Pat Lutz

Julia Carson

Barbara Lee

Ernie L. Engel

Margaret R. Owens

Arnold Payne

Lyons C. Woolsey

Ann Angell

Carole B. Maloney

Jim Oberstar

Louise M. Slaughter

John Long

Santam

Fred Sanders

Russ Holt

Rosa L. Lee

Hendrick B. Mack

Charm E. Watson

Mike Thompson

Mark Udall

John Bunker Jr.

Joseph [Signature]

Stephane Pitho [Signature]

Leah J. Sorely

Jim [Signature]

Shelley Buhley

Stephen [Signature]

Carolyn McCarty

Co-signers:

- 1) Robert Wexler
- 2) Marty Meehan
- 3) Jim McDermott
- 4) Donald Payne
- 5) Carolyn Maloney
- 6) Diane Watson
- 7) Rush Holt
- 8) Maxine Waters
- 9) Stephanie Tubbs Jones
- 10) Howard Berman
- 11) Eliot Engel
- 12) Earl Blumenauer
- 13) Bernie Sanders
- 14) G.K. Butterfield
- 15) James McGovern
- 16) Neil Abercrombie
- 17) Robert Menendez
- 18) Sam Farr
- 19) Joe Crowley
- 20) Carolyn McCarthy
- 21) Mark Udall
- 22) Ellen Tauscher
- 23) Louise Slaughter
- 24) George Miller
- 25) Peter Defazio
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- 29) Shelley Berkley
- 30) John Tanner
- 31) Tammy Baldwin
- 32) John Dingell
- 33) Barbara Lee
- 34) David Wu
- 35) Rosa DeLauro
- 36) Luis Gutierrez
- 37) Mike Thompson
- 38) John Conyers
- 39) Jan Schakowsky
- 40) Linda Sanchez
- 41) Stephen Lynch
- 42) Major Owens
- 43) Julia Carson
- 44) Lynn Woolsey
- 45) Sherrod Brown

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

Recently it was brought to our attention that critical vital statistics ~~are not kept for all~~ Americans who die outside of the United States. Included in this group are deceased members of the United States Military, regardless of the way they die.

The normal process for collecting vital statistics requires the death certificate of a deceased individual to be sent to their birth state so they can be matched with the birth certificate record of the decedent. This ensures that the state's records indicate that the individual is deceased and no birth certificates are distributed for a deceased individual without it being marked as such. This protects the deceased and their family from identity theft, among other things. When a person dies outside of the United States, no death certificate is sent to the deceased's birth state. This results in the individual's record in their birth state indicating that they are alive, despite being deceased.

While we can certainly understand the complications for developing a system for collecting death certificates issued by foreign governments for Americans who die overseas, we believe that the Department of Defense could integrate their system for deceased service men and women with state vital record offices. It is our understanding that members of the United States Military who die outside of the United States, including the service men and women who are killed in combat and in non-combat situations, do not have their death certificates sent to their birth states and are therefore considered alive in state records. Should a request be made for a birth certificate, it would not indicate that they are deceased and could be used as a tool to steal the deceased identity.

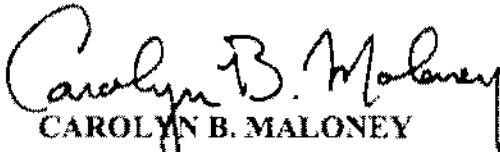
Birth certificates have long been used as the main feeder documents to obtain other forms of identification, including drivers licenses. Ensuring the proper issuance of birth certificates is a vital tool in preventing identity theft. It is our concern that this process leaves members of the United States Military, who die outside of the United States but are listed as alive in their birth state, susceptible to identity theft. Exacerbating our concerns is the publicity that surrounds the death of a member of the United States Military. Frequently, the name, address, and family information is reported in the press for service men and women who die in combat. Additionally, the average age of the deceased is at a preferred age for identity theft.

We are confident that you share our concern in protecting deceased service men and women and their families from identity theft. In that vein, we ask that the Department of Defense review their policy of filing death certificates and we ask for an explanation of what the Department of Defense is doing to prevent identity theft of service men and women who die outside of the United States.

Additionally, we would appreciate an effort to update the manner in which vital statistics are kept for deceased service members and to make all efforts to match their death certificates with their birth certificates. As you may know, these birth certificates are collected, preserved, and protected by the individual states. We are in discussions with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Services (NAPHISIS), an association that represents the vital records offices in all the 57 jurisdictions in this country, about this issue. NAPHISIS understands the process for electronic data linkages with organizations like the Department of Defense and can assist in developing solutions to this problem.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact Edward Mills in Representative Maloney's office at (202) 225-7944 or Jordan Press in Representative Shays's office at (202) 225-5541.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress


CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

RECEIVED
DEFENSE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

March 11, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

The congressional delegation of Connecticut has a special appreciation for the unique relationship between the Naval Submarine Base New London; the Naval Submarine School; the Naval Undersea Warfare Center at Newport, Rhode Island; and the Electric Boat Corporation and its many regional subcontractors.

This military-industrial-educational nexus, anchored by Sub Base New London, represents a transformational diamond developed over the last 100 years. As you prepare your recommendation to the 2005 Commission on Base Realignment and Closure Commission, we urge you to consider the additional defense value produced by this special convergence of American expertise, talent and technology.

The Naval Submarine Base New London, "Home of the Submarine Force," is the core of an undersea warfare community that has produced many of America's greatest naval advancements. Some of these milestones include the design and production of the USS Nautilus - the very first nuclear-powered submarine - and the USS Jimmy Carter, the most sophisticated warship ever built.

The trend will soon continue through Tango Bravo, a cooperative research and development program to develop a submarine with all the capabilities of a Virginia-class, but at half the size and price. This transformational platform could ultimately help the Navy afford the number of submarines it needs.

Such initiatives thrive within the undersea warfare community around Sub Base New London because it is a true center of excellence. Instructors at the Naval Submarine School borrow lessons learned from the crews of the 16 home-ported attack boats to better train the silent service's newest volunteers. All of this interaction takes place both formally and spontaneously because that is the nature of great Americans with common passions and the blessings of proximity. It is hard to imagine this level and quality of interplay replicated at any other U.S. naval base.

The undersea warfare community partnership also makes good business sense. Next door to the Sub Base, the Electric Boat Corporation uses its century of experience to maintain standards of excellence in the design, construction and lifecycle support of submarines for the U.S. Navy. Its primary operations are the shipyard in Groton (CT), and the automated

hull-fabrication and outfitting facility in Quonset Point (RI), with a combined workforce of more than 11,000 employees.

On any given day, hundreds of EB employees work within the gates of the Sub Base, addressing problems at the source. Submariners of all ranks interact with Electric Boat employees to ensure that future designs incorporate every war fighting lesson our sailors have to offer. This partnership between the highly skilled workers of Electric Boat and the Navy—the region's second largest employer—addresses the very special needs of the submarine community perhaps better than any other local-military partnership in the United States today.

The defense value of the Naval Submarine Base New London goes well beyond its obvious traditional military value. The unique base-submarine school-undersea warfare center-industrial nexus provides the Navy with a one-of-a-kind American asset—a gold mine for future transformational developments that will build upon the achievements of the past.

It is for these reasons that we urge you to duly weigh the defense value of this special relationship as you consider your recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

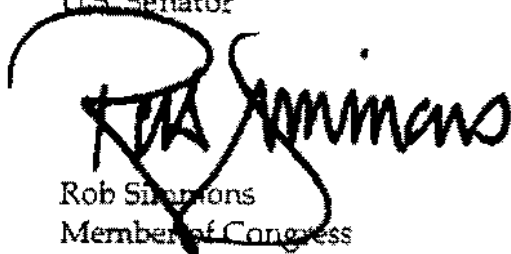
All the best,



Chris Dodd
U.S. Senator



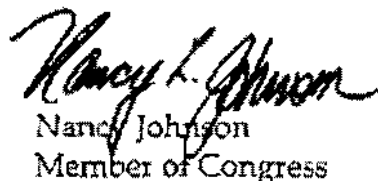
Joe Lieberman
U.S. Senator



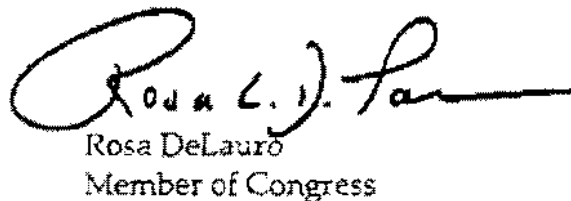
Rob Simmons
Member of Congress



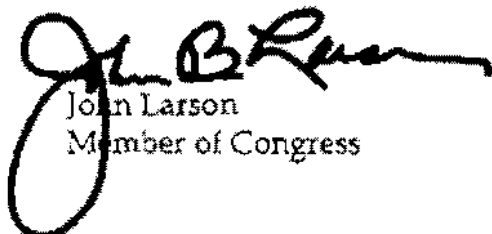
Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Nancy Johnson
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2005

The Honorable Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Wolfowitz:

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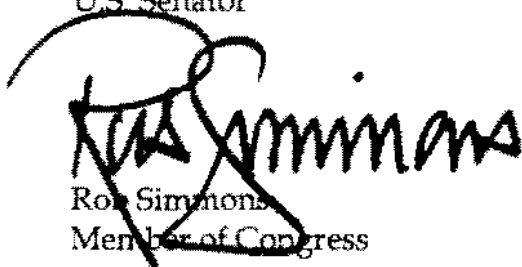
All the best,



Chris Dodd
U.S. Senator



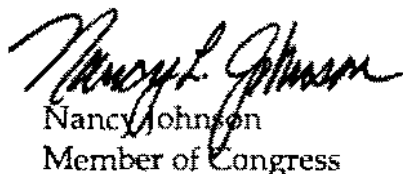
Joe Lieberman
U.S. Senator



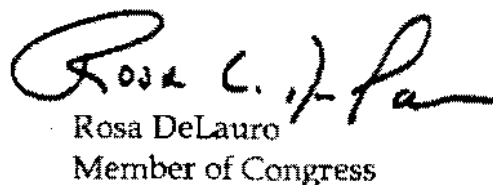
Ron Simmons
Member of Congress



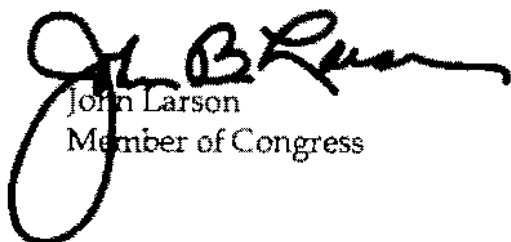
Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Nancy Johnson
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress

CLASSIFIED
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DECLASSIFICATION
DATE 03-10-20

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2006

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
Room 3E880
The Pentagon, 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our concern about a recent deployment involving the First Infantry Division of the Army's 102nd Battalion. This division includes 500 members of the Connecticut National Guard who were mobilized and reported to Fort Bragg for training earlier this month.

Several members of the Connecticut National Guard have informed our offices that, upon arriving at Fort Bragg, the unit was issued older M-16 A4 model weaponry rather than the more current M4 carbine. It is our understanding that the Connecticut Guardsmen initiated a request for more modern equipment through their appropriate chain of command, but that this request was denied. These soldiers believe that the A4 model is insufficient for the convoy operations that they will undertake when they are sent to Afghanistan, a deployment that they expect to occur later this month. We are informed that the smaller M4 carbine, with its smaller barrel and collapsible stock, is a superior weapon for such operations.

We also understand that the unit has been provided with PAQ-4 infrared spotting lasers, rather than the more advanced PEQ-2. The PEQ-2 has enhanced capabilities that allow soldiers to better see and aim at potential targets during nighttime operations.

We are deeply concerned about the possibility that our soldiers could deploy to a theater of war without the best possible equipment that our nation can provide. Indeed, we have been told that the reason that these soldiers are not receiving the M4 and PEQ-2 is that there are insufficient supplies available rather than that the M16 A4 and PAQ-4 are effective replacements for the more modern equipment. If this is actually the case, it is tantamount to a concession that U.S. troops are being equipped with suboptimal firearms because there is a shortage of preferable equipment.

OSD 03528-06

Secretary Rumsfeld
Page Two
March 3, 2006

While it is occasionally reported that our National Guard troops receive lesser equipment for training purposes than do Active Duty forces, the idea that our National Guardsmen could receive inferior equipment for missions that often involve combat is outrageous. Our staffs already have requested a formal investigation of this matter, a request that was made through the National Guard Bureau's legislative affairs department. However, we believe that this matter needs your immediate, personal attention so that it may be quickly resolved.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress


CHRISTOPHER DODD
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request your support for a proposed two day seminar to assist Connecticut aerospace-related companies with their understanding and compliance with U.S. export licensing and control requirements. The seminar is scheduled for August 28 and 29, 2007 at the Foxwoods Resort in Connecticut.

Three national seminars have been held in Connecticut – in May 1990, September 2000, and June 2006. In all three cases, their success was attributable to the participation of licensing officers from the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense. We hope that you will again authorize the participation of the State Department licensing officers from the Defense Technology Security Administration.

Companies from across Connecticut and the nation have attended previous seminars, because of the important opportunity to meet face-to-face with licensing officers on regulations and procedures. There are an estimated 300 manufacturers in Connecticut in aerospace and related technologies, and firms from this sector have indicated a strong interest in another seminar.

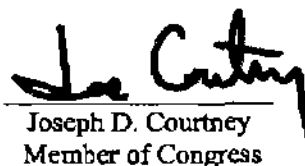
Seminar topics in the past have included Jurisdiction and Classification; Munitions List Licensing; Airframe Licensing; Country Policies; Repair Facilities; Sub-system Licensing; Navigation and Communications; Inertial Systems; Engines; Airframes; Re-exports; and Technology Transfer.

Co-sponsors of the event include the Connecticut District Export Council (CT DEC), the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development, and the Middletown U.S. Export Assistance Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The CT DEC will handle all registration fees, hotel and meeting space arrangements, and will coordinate with the other two organizations on speaker and event logistics.

We appreciate your time in considering this request and your assistance in providing the appropriate staff from the Defense Technology Security Administration to attend. If members of your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to have them contact Jason Gross, Chief of Staff for Representative Courtney (202-225-2076), or Frank Rowe with Senator Lieberman's staff (860-549-8463).

Sincerely,


Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator


Joseph D. Courtney
Member of Congress

OSD 08628-07



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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are concerned about the Department of Defense's efforts to protect Americans employed by government contractors in Iraq from violent crime and to ensure the needs of victims are met. DoD employees who commit crimes are accountable for those crimes under U.S. law.

American citizen Jamie Leigh Jones, while employed in Baghdad by KBR, a former subsidiary of Halliburton, alleged that she was assaulted and gang raped by fellow employees. Afterwards, Army doctors performed a medical examination on Ms. Jones. However, the results of the rape kit were turned over to KBR, Ms. Jones' employer. Portions of the rape kit are now missing. According to Ms. Jones, she was then held captive under armed guard for 24 hours without food or water. State Department agents in the US Embassy at Baghdad facilitated Ms. Jones' release.

In another case, American citizen Tracy Barker, while employed by KBR, alleged that she was sexually assaulted by a State Department employee. Her alleged assaulter continues to work for the State Department today.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. Many other women have reported sexual assault and harassment while working for government contractors. Ms. Jones and Ms. Barker's harrowing experiences prompt us to pose questions regarding the DoD's overall efforts to address crimes against individuals in similar situations.

Prevention and Assistance

How does the DoD assist American civilians living and working in Iraq who are victims of crime? Does the DoD include language in contracts requiring contractors to ensure their employees live and work in non-hostile/non-violent environments? Does the DoD provide government contracted employees with sexual assault and sexual harassment training? If so, how and when is this training implemented? Does the DoD provide such employees – American citizens – with information regarding their rights as crime victims? Does the DoD have available resources for dealing with the aftermath of victimization?

Investigations

What is the DoD's protocol on rape and sexual assault investigations of government contract employees abroad? Does the DoD send information regarding allegations of sexual assault to the Department of Justice for possible criminal investigations? Who provides the forensic examinations and what is the protocol to ensure that the exams and evidence are appropriately maintained and a chain of custody is in place?



Accountability

What types of control and enforcement power does the DoD have over civilian contracting companies when their employees commit violent crimes? What is the procedure for receiving complaints from American civilian contractors? If a complaint is received, what repercussions exist, including contractual repercussions, for the contracting company? Have there been any contractual repercussions for KBR following Ms. Jones' accusations? What was the rationale of the Army Doctor that turned Ms. Jones' rape kit to KBR? Who is responsible for receiving rape kits turned over by Army doctors? After receiving a rape kit, who safeguards it and ensures that the chain of custody is not tampered?

Offenders

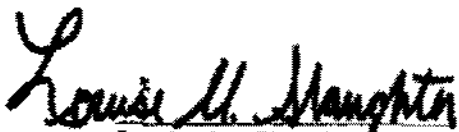
What policies exist for addressing American civilian contractors, who are alleged or accused of committing crimes while in Iraq? What safety mechanisms are put in place after a report of sexual assault to ensure the safety of the victim and other potential victims? Are the alleged offenders removed from their position? Are contractors required to terminate the employment of alleged offenders of violent crime during investigations?


Reporting

Does the DoD collect data on the number of reported cases of sexual assault and other violent crimes among American civilian contractors or government contracted employees? If so, how is that data collected and where is that data published?

Victims of crime perpetrated by employees of taxpayer funded government contracts in Iraq deserve the same standard of treatment they have a right to at home. We hope the DoD is working to prevent crime, protect victims, and hold contract employees accountable. Thank you for your consideration. Because of the urgent nature of this matter, we request a response by February 24, 2008.

Sincerely,

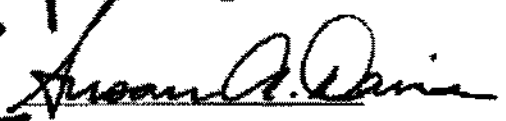

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

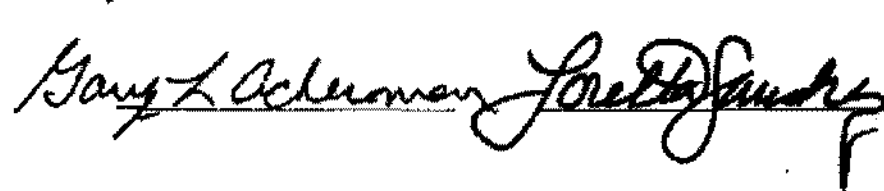

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

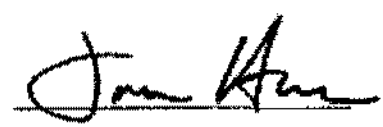

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Bob A. Workman


Tom Lantos


Susan D. Davis


Gary L. Ackerman


Tom Harkin

Norma Sachs

Eric Ochalek

Albert R. Unger

John Smith

Dennis J. Kucinski

Joseph Cronley

Samy Baldori

Art B.

Maurice Hily

Bob Filner

Joe Joe

Donald Nadler

Coralyn B. Maloney

Steven N. D.H.

Chaka Fattah

Melanie Waters

Jim Moran

Earl Blumen

Angela C. Koppstadt

Lynn Woolsey

Rosa L. DeLauro

Howard L. Berman

George Miller Ronald M. Payne

Danng K. Davis Gene Brin

Eleanor H. Norton Jerome P. Ortiz

Betty Latta

Marcel H. Maribel

Deirre

Kim Van Vollen

Nancy Boyda

Michael W. Wunders

Billy Miller

Michael V. Villing

Ed S. Schiff

Betty Scott

Michael G.

Joe Dostal

Kath Ellen

Alfred H. Hays

James

Alfred H. Hays

Carrie Brown

Edward J. Markey

John W. Markey

Daniel Markey

Michael E. Markey

John F. Tierney

Pete de Tizio

Patrick J. Kennedy

Dellie Wasserman def

Lucille Loyd Allard

Shan Eiler

Carol Steen-Power

Bruce L. Bradley

Hilda L. Solis

Harold Johnson

Ellen Trenchard

James

Joseph J. Gifford

John Hall

Julia Gifford

Eliza E. Cummings

Jon Langerin

Adm A. Beary

Lee Cawthay

Pete Stark

James O. Matsui

Jimmy Brown - Wash

Madeline J. Randall

Shelley Bailey

Chang Sheng

Jim McDermott

John B. Ruan

Jeff

Hal Daggett

Jim Brown

John Lewis

Kathy Castor

Allyson J. Schwartz

Lois Capps

Phil Hare

Tom Blum

Steve Cohen

Grace S. Hapgood

Dave Loebach Neil Abner

Mr. Althaus Tin Bryan

Samuel S. Bunn Majie K. Heron

Rail M. Hjalson

Linda J. Sica

Vic Snyder

Sam Farn

Jim Alt

Brian Biggs

Jonel Pave

Joe Baca

Signatories

- 1 . Representative Louise Slaughter
- 2 . Representative Ted Poe
- 3 . Representative Jan Schakowsky
- 4 . Representative Henry Waxman
- 5 . Representative Tom Lantos
- 6 . Representative Susan Davis
- 7 . Representative Gary Ackerman
- 8 . Representative Loretta Sanchez
- 9 . Representative Jane Harman
- 10 . Representative Zoe Lofgren
- 11 . Representative James R. Langevin
- 12 . Representative Lloyd Doggett
- 13 . Representative Robert Brady
- 14 . Representative Joe Courtney
- 15 . Representative Doris Matsui
- 16 . Representative Pete Stark
- 17 . Representative Kathy Castor
- 18 . Representative John Lewis
- 19 . Representative Shelley Berkley
- 20 . Representative Ginny Brown-Waite
- 21 . Representative Allyson Schwartz
- 22 . Representative Madeleine Bordallo
- 23 . Representative Brian Higgins
- 24 . Representative James McGovern
- 25 . Representative Steve Cohen
- 26 . Representative John Larson
- 27 . Representative Jim McDermott
- 28 . Representative Lois Capps
- 29 . Representative Phil Hare
- 30 . Representative Christopher Shays
- 31 . Representative Tom Allen
- 32 . Representative Sam Farr
- 33 . Representative Linda Sanchez
- 34 . Representative Mazie Hirono
- 35 . Representative Sander Levin
- 36 . Representative Jim Costa
- 37 . Representative Vic Snyder
- 38 . Representative Tim Ryan
- 39 . Representative Leonard Boswell
- 40 . Representative Raul Grijalva

41 . Representative Neil Abercrombie
42 . Representative Dave Loebsack
43 . Representative Bob Etheridge
44 . Representative Grace Napolitano
45 . Representative Chris Van Hollen
46 . Representative Nancy Boyda
47 . Representative Michael Honda
48 . Representative Betty McCollum
49 . Representative Betty Sutton
50 . Representative Michael Michaud
51 . Representative Dennis Moore
52 . Representative Solomon Ortiz
53 . Representative Eleanor Norton
54 . Representative Danny Davis
55 . Representative David Price
56 . Representative George Miller
57 . Representative Donald Payne
58 . Representative Howard Berman
59 . Representative Rosa DeLauro
60 . Representative Lynn Woolsey
61 . Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick
62 . Representative Earl Blumenauer
63 . Representative Chaka Fattah
64 . Representative Steve Rothman
65 . Representative Carolyn Maloney
66 . Representative Jerrold Nadler
67 . Representative Gene Green
68 . Representative Jim Moran
69 . Representative Maxine Waters
70 . Representative Adam Smith
71 . Representative Joseph Crowley
72 . Representative Bob Filner
73 . Representative Maurice Hinchey
74 . Representative Silvestre Reyes
75 . Representative Dennis Kucinich
76 . Representative Tammy Baldwin
77 . Representative William Delahunt
78 . Representative Ellen Tauscher
79 . Representative Nydia Velazquez
80 . Representative Norman Dicks
81 . Representative Albert Wynn
82 . Representative Bobby Scott

- 83 . Representative Joe Sestak
- 84 . Representative Corrine Brown
- 85 . Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz
- 86 . Representative Sheila Jackson Lee
- 87 . Representative Alcee Hastings
- 88 . Representative Keith Ellison
- 89 . Representative Michael Capuano
- 90 . Representative Adam Schiff
- 91 . Representative Henry Johnson
- 92 . Representative Patrick Kennedy
- 93 . Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard
- 94 . Representative Al Green
- 95 . Representative Edolphus Towns
- 96 . Representative Chris Murphy
- 97 . Representative John Tierney
- 98 . Representative Collin Peterson
- 99 . Representative Brad Miller
- 100 . Representative Bruce Braley
- 101 . Representative Ed Markey
- 102 . Representative Carol Shea-Porter
- 103 . Representative Peter DeFazio
- 104 . Representative Darlene Hooley
- 105 . Representative Michael McNulty
- 106 . Representative Jay Inslee
- 107 . Representative Gabrielle Giffords
- 108 . Representative John Hall
- 109 . Representative Hilda Solis
- 110 . Representative Joe Baca
- 111 . Representative Elijah Cummings

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

February 8, 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 concern over recent issues with regard to the VH-71 presidential helicopter program and urge you to re-compete the contract. In short, the program seems to be seriously over budget, significantly delayed and still the wrong choice to be flying the U.S. President.

It is our understanding that the VH-71 program cost has increased by over fifty percent from \$6.1 billion to nearly \$11 billion. Costs for increment II alone have been reported to have increased from \$1 to \$2 billion. Such increases strain congressional patience with the whole Department of Defense acquisition process, let alone this specific program. We would like to know how any program's initial cost estimate can increase so much after only two years.

We suspect that the answer to the above question is linked to the nearly 2,000 requirements changes to the program since the original competition resulting in a current platform that no longer resembles the original contract award. The modifications being made to extend the length of the tail section, in addition to those being done to the rotor, will create an aircraft that in no way resembles what was originally bid. Moreover, if these requirements were included in the initial competition, there is no doubt that other companies would have modified their proposals making them potentially more attractive than the current winner. Finally, the winning team has promised to assemble most of these aircraft in the United States – a promise we believe they will not keep.

Accordingly, it has become sufficiently evident that the Department of Defense made a mistake in choosing a foreign helicopter to fly the U.S. president and the time has come to correct it. We must keep confidence in this program, which last year saw a \$500 million cut in funding. Now is the time to re-compete this "new" platform and find a winner who can deliver it on-time and on-budget, and do so with American workers.

OSD 01881-08



2/11/2008 7:29:40 AM

Sincerely,



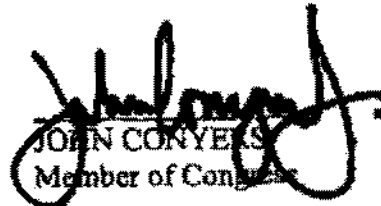
ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress



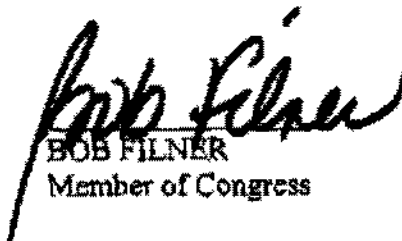
DONALD MANZULLO
Member of Congress



TIM RYAN
Member of Congress



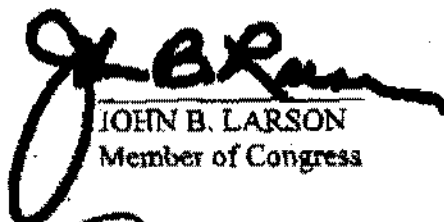
JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress




EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



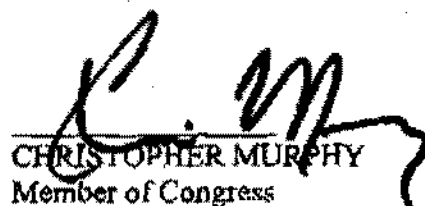
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



JERRY COSTELLO
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER MURPHY
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2008

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

The Honorable James Peake
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Peake:

We write today to urge the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to include communication with State Veterans' Affairs Departments in the seamless transition of service members to both their communities and to veteran status.

We are concerned about the lack of timely information available to State Veterans' Affairs Departments about wounded service members who return home awaiting, or following, medical separation from the military. In Connecticut, we have heard all too often that the DD214 form used to transmit the contact information of a separated service member to a State Veterans' Affairs department takes several months or more after the service member's return to his or her state of residence.

As a result, state veterans affairs officials have been forced to track down returning wounded service members and veterans through unreliable methods such as culling media reports and word of mouth. In Connecticut, for example, the State Veterans Affairs Commissioner has received timely information about the return of wounded service members through a grassroots effort relying on a hotline or news clips.

As veterans continue to face delays and frustrations in the medical separation process, many state veterans affairs departments are in a unique position to provide services, benefits and support to our wounded warriors at the critical time before Federal assistance is often available; however, they have been unable to reliably offer resources to wounded service members because they do not know when these individuals are returning home and where they can be contacted.

Therefore, we call your attention to Section 1614 of the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181) directing the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to jointly develop and implement processes, procedures and standards for the transition of recovering service members by July 1, 2008. We were both proud to have worked with our colleagues to insert language in our chambers' respective versions of the Defense Authorization bill that moved this issue forward, and as a result, Section 1614 of the final bill states that the new transition policy will include, among other factors:

"Procedures to ensure that, with the consent of the recovering service member concerned, the address and contact information of the service member is transmitted to the department or agency for veterans affairs of the State in which

March 3, 2008

Page 2

the service member intends to reside after the retirement or separation of the service member from the Armed Forces."

As you begin to design the new Department of Defense -Veterans Administration transition process, which includes the components outlined in Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181), we urge you to develop timely and robust methods of communication with State Veterans Departments, who are poised to assist returning wounded service members. We are very interested in how your respective departments plan to incorporate these resources into the transition process as outlined in the law, and would ask that your representatives meet with our staff, Purva Rawal (Senator Lieberman) at Purva_Rawal@Lieberman.Senate.gov and Neil McKiernan (Representative Courtney) at Neil.Mckiernan@mai.house.gov, to discuss further.

Thank you for your dedication to our men and women in uniform. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to request your support for a proposed two day seminar to assist Connecticut aerospace-related companies with their understanding and compliance with U.S. export licensing and control requirements. The seminar is scheduled for August 26 and 27, 2008 at the Foxwoods Resort in Connecticut.

Four national seminars have been held in Connecticut – in May 1990, September 2000, June 2006 and August 2007. In all four cases, their success was attributable to the participation of licensing officers from the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense. We hope that you will again authorize the participation of the Defense Department licensing officers from the Defense Technology Security Administration.

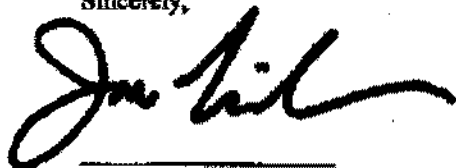
Companies from across Connecticut and the nation have attended previous seminars, because of the important opportunity to meet face-to-face with licensing officers on regulations and procedures. There are an estimated 300 manufacturers in Connecticut in aerospace and related technologies, and firms from this sector have indicated a strong interest in another seminar.

Seminar topics in the past have included Jurisdiction and Classification; Munitions List Licensing; Airframe Licensing; Country Policies; Repair Facilities; Sub-system Licensing; Navigation and Communications; Inertial Systems; Engines; Airframes; Re-exports; and Technology Transfer.

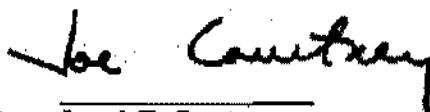
Co-sponsors of the event include the Connecticut District Export Council (CT DEC), the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development, and the Middletown U.S. Export Assistance Center of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The CT DEC will handle all registration fees, hotel and meeting space arrangements, and will coordinate with the other two organizations on speaker and event logistics.

We appreciate your time in considering this request and your assistance in providing the appropriate staff from the Defense Technology Security Administration to attend. If members of your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to have them contact Jason Gross, Chief of Staff for Representative Courtney (202-225-2076), or Frank Rowe with Senator Lieberman's staff (860-549-8463).

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



Joseph D. Courtney
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write today to request information on the status of an alternate proposal (PT074459) of the Department of Defense Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Traumatic Brain Injury (PTSD/TBI) Research Programs PTSD Multidisciplinary research consortium award.

As you may know, earlier this year the "Consortium for the Translational Neuroscience and Treatment of Stress in PTSD," led by researchers at Yale University and other sites across the country, was selected as an alternate proposal in efforts to expand the Department of Defense's knowledge and understanding of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Among other goals, this proposal would have created the first so-called "brain bank" from which brain tissue of those affected by PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) could be studied so that we can expand our knowledge of the impact of both on the human brain. Although selected as an alternate, the proposal received an "outstanding" scientific rating of 1.3 (range 1-5, with 1 a perfect application).

In notifying the consortium of their selection as an alternate, the Department of Defense made clear that the project could only be supported if "funds become available." To this end, we would like to inquire as to the future of the DoD PTSD research initiative. In particular, as an "alternate" with such an outstanding scientific evaluation, does the DOD have any plans to fund this application within existing funds? And, if not, what steps must be taken to support the initiation of DOD's support for this project?

We know you share our deep concern with the treatment of PTSD and TBI for our servicemembers serving in, and returning from, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. We believe that proposals like this can greatly expand our limited understanding of these challenges and strongly urge DOD's support for this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you. Your staff may follow up our staff Dan Zeitlin (DeLauro) at (202) 225-3661 or Neil McKiernan (Courtney) at (202) 225-2076 to discuss this matter. For reference, we have included DOD's initial notification letter.

Sincerely,


ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Winter:

We write to express our concern regarding the significant cost overruns associated with the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program. As you know, the Department of Defense announced that the total acquisition cost is projected to increase from \$6.5 billion to \$11.2 billion, raising the cost per helicopter by 50 percent above the original estimate. We respectfully request detailed information on this recent Nunn-McCurdy breach, including various options to modify or re-open the contract for bidding, as mandated in the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 110-417).

We are very supportive of the Defense Department's initiative to ensure that programs are held accountable to their projected budgets and timelines. Secretary Gates specifically mentioned the VH-71 as a "big ticket" item experiencing contract or program performance problems. Likewise, President Obama noted that the program's cost represents, "a lot of money, even for Washington," and promised to "take a close look at it," identifying this program as emblematic "of some of the systematic problems we have in Pentagon procurement."

As you know, Lockheed Martin was awarded the contract without any experience building helicopters, winning the contract over the incumbent contractor, Sikorsky. Sikorsky has manufactured Marine One since President Eisenhower first utilized helicopters for presidential transport in the 1950s. The company fulfilled these contracts without exceeding the projected budget or failing to meet required timelines and milestones. Sikorsky is a tested and proven prime contractor for the Marine One fleet. In addition, Sikorsky maintains the most stringent security requirements for its Marine One aircraft and facilities, with minimal reliance on foreign components and designs.

We therefore respectfully request a thorough report, coupled with a briefing, on the development plans for this program, including an analysis of the potential advantages of either re-opening the contract for bidding or requiring split-production between Lockheed Martin and the incumbent contractor. We believe that such an analysis of alternatives will present a clear option for the Department of Defense to eventually develop Marine One aircraft on time and on budget.

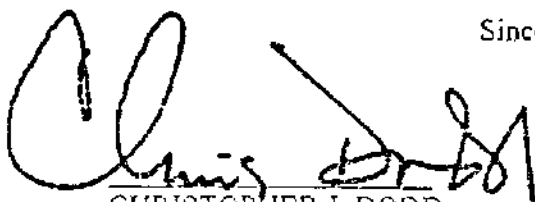
OSD 01615-09



We thank you in advance for keeping us apprised of the Navy's decision-making process and look forward to receiving a detailed report, as well as a briefing on the matter, as soon as possible. Like you, we believe that there are few more sensitive and more important national security concerns than the safe transport of our nation's chief executive. When the President travels on this aircraft, it becomes a critical information node, with vital data coming in, and the most important decisions being meted out. We hope that you will provide us with a workable plan for delivering the highest quality aircraft with the highest security standards. Our President and our nation deserve no less.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact us or our staff: Lindsay George of Senator Dodd's office at (202) 224-1730 or Dan Zeitlin of Representative DeLauro's office at (202) 225-3661. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator



ROSA L. DeLAURO
United States Representative



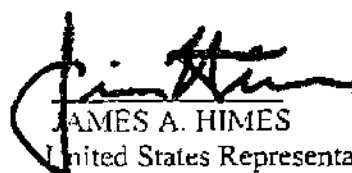
JOHN B. LARSON
United States Representative



JOE COURTNEY
United States Representative



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Representative



JAMES A. HIMES
United States Representative

Cc: The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable John Young
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Mr. Sean J. Stackley
Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

As Congress awaits the submission of the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for the Department of Defense, we write to share our strong and unwavering support for the Air National Guard (ANG) units in our states that lost their flying missions through BRAC 2005.

As you know, the last BRAC round made significant changes to the lay down of aircraft within the ANG. In our six states, many units lost their flying missions – ranging from A-10s, C-130Js, and F-16s – with some losing the only flying mission stationed permanently in their state. The loss of a flying mission is a direct threat to the manpower, readiness and relevance of our ANG units and their continued ability to meet their state and federal duties.

The ANG not only serves our nation as we ask them to support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world, but they also serve the local state missions. Without a permanent flying mission within the state, the ANG may lose the valuable expertise and experience our airmen provide. With the immense capability the ANG provides to our nation, we must not jeopardize the investment we've made in the ANG personnel forces.

According to the 2008 Air Force Weapon Systems Roadmap, as well as subsequent planning by the Air Force and National Guard Bureau, our six states are each expected to receive the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA). While we welcome the assignment of a permanent flying mission to our states, we are concerned that continued debate about the organization and control of the JCA program could place the future of our ANG units at risk. We believe it is important to firmly resolve the "roles and missions" debate with regards to intra-theater lift, and move forward with a program that meets the needs of ANG states impacted in BRAC while also addressing the capability gap faced by our warfighters.

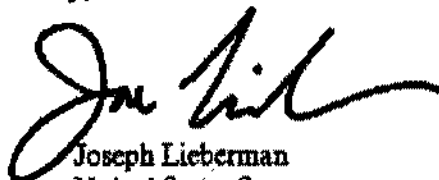
This is a pivotal year for our Air National Guard. To this end, we look forward to the Department's strong support for the allocation of permanent flying missions to our states as part of the upcoming submission of the 2010 defense budget.

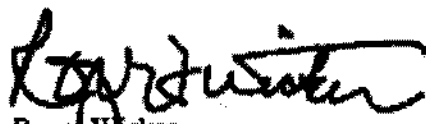
As always, we thank you for your service to our nation and look forward to continuing to work with you to support our men and women in uniform.

OSD 05298-09



Sincerely,

Christopher Dodd
United States SenatorJoseph Lieberman
United States SenatorJohn Larson
United States RepresentativeJoseph Courtney
United States RepresentativeBarbara Mikulski
United States SenatorBenjamin Cardin
United States SenatorSteny Hoyer
United States RepresentativeRoscoe Bartlett
United States RepresentativeElijah Cummings
United States RepresentativeDutch Ruppersberger
United States RepresentativeDonna Edwards
United States RepresentativeFrank Kratovil
United States RepresentativeCarl Levin
United States SenatorDebbie Stabenow
United States SenatorMark Schauer
United States Representative



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Gregg Harper
United States Representative



Kent Conrad
United States Senator



Byron Dorgan
United States Senator



Earl Pomeroy
United States Representative



George Voinovich
United States Senator



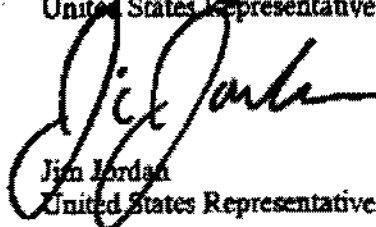
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



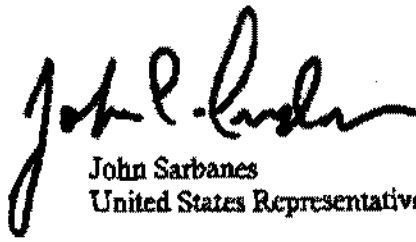
Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative



Tim Ryan
United States Representative



Jim Jordan
United States Representative



John Sarbanes
United States Representative

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

June 15, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to applaud your decision to terminate the troubled VH-71 presidential helicopter replacement program. A program that does not meet requirements in terms of capability and schedule, and is twice the original cost after only four years, is a program that should be canceled if we are going to keep defense programs accountable for their projected budgets and timelines.

Nevertheless, we do have serious concerns over the sunk costs of the program. Projected to be nearly \$3.2 billion, this cost represents a real investment by the taxpayer that should not be ignored. We believe it would be prudent to move forward with the program in a way that does not waste this substantial taxpayer investment.


One solution might be to award the contract to the only other qualified competitor, Sikorsky's H-92 helicopter, and team Sikorsky with the incumbent systems integrator, Lockheed Martin. As you know, Sikorsky, the prime contractor for the Marine One since the 1950s, has fulfilled its contracts on time and on budget. This solution offers the dual benefit of "saving" some of the previously sunk costs, particularly jobs in both New York and Maryland, and creating additional American jobs by having those aircraft manufactured in the United States. At a time of severe economic crisis, this solution seems ideal.

You correctly identified the need to terminate a program with costs that grew from an estimated \$6.5 billion to over \$13 billion, but also made clear that there is a need to develop a follow on option. It is our understanding that the Sikorsky H-92 is currently qualified to meet the mission requirements and is currently more "fail-safe" than the VH-71 Increment I aircraft. By teaming Sikorsky with Lockheed Martin, the Navy can develop a helicopter that can safely transport the president while not only providing the best value for the taxpayer, but also maintaining and creating American jobs.

Thank you for the consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.


Sincerely,


ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress


JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress

OSD 06786-09




JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress


CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Raymond Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We are writing in our capacity as members of the Military Family Caucus to express our concern with the sudden suspension of the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA). Authorized in 2009 in the National Defense Authorization Act, this program provides critical support to military spouses allowing them to pursue portable careers in high demand, high growth occupations. We are seeking your help to better understand the basis for this "pause," how long the "pause" will be in effect, and the impact it will have on spouses.

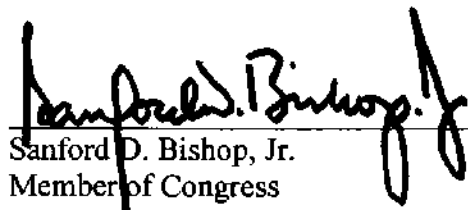
While military spouses often would like to follow a traditional education path, their lifestyles prevent them from doing so. Many access online courses as opposed to enrolling in semester long "in-person" courses to better suit their family needs. The MyCAA provides the critical support that these military spouses need to succeed in school and in their careers.

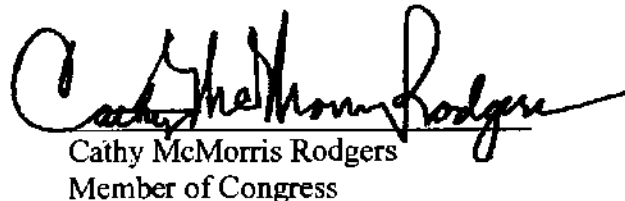
We have heard from military spouses who are directly impacted by this program termination. They explain that a disruption in funding may cause many of them to miss a final term or delay the completion of their degrees – possibly without the opportunity to finish once they are relocated. Many military spouses have planned their careers and lives around the assumption that this program would continue without interruption.

The sudden abatement of this program has significantly impacted an overwhelming number of spouses - preventing them from moving forward with their lives. To our knowledge, the Department of Defense has yet to fill this gap or provide any detailed information as to when this program will resume. With 133,000 military spouses participating in this program, we are concerned with the practical impact of this "pause".

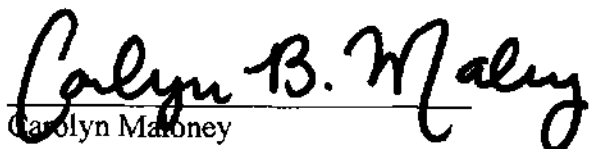
The MyCAA program not only provides training and benefits, but gives military spouses much needed confidence that they are contributors to their families' needs. Halting this program without notice is not the way to support those who sacrifice so much to make our military what it is today. We look forward to your response and are hopeful that the program is up and running very soon.


Sincerely,



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



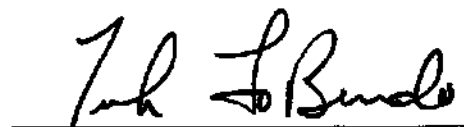

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

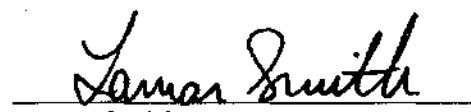

John Carter
Member of Congress

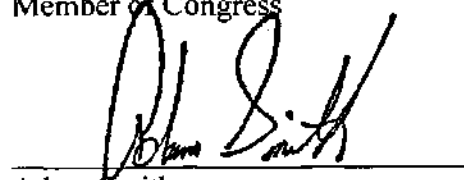

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

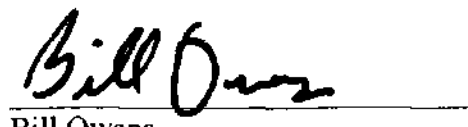

Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

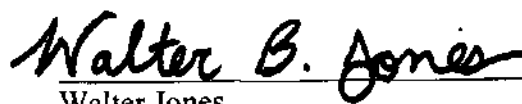

Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

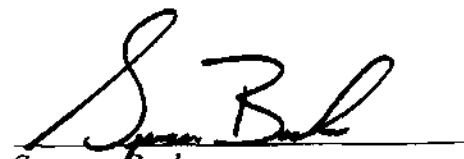

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Bill Owens
Member of Congress


Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak
Member of Congress

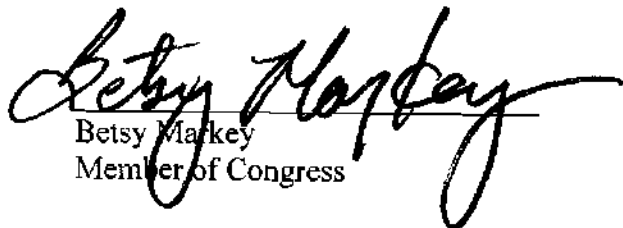

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

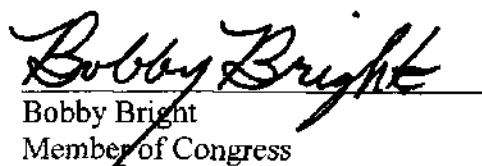

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

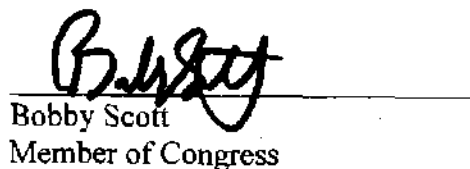

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

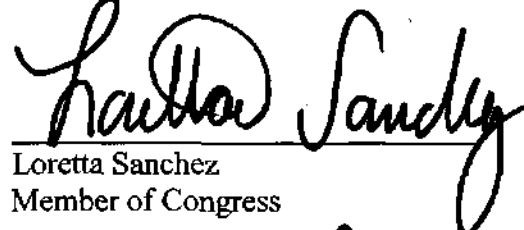

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

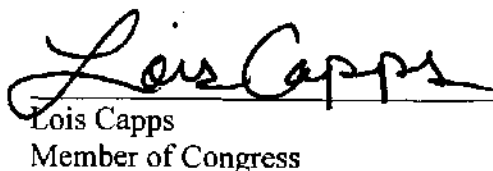

Roy Blunt
Member of Congress

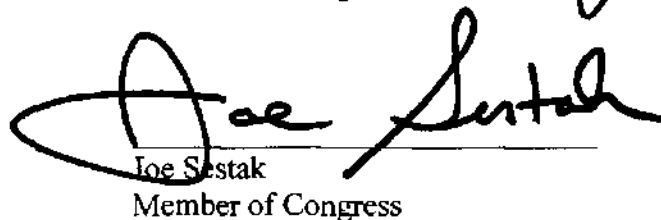

Betsy Markey
Member of Congress

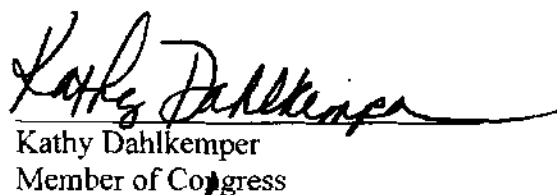

Bobby Bright
Member of Congress


Bobby Scott
Member of Congress

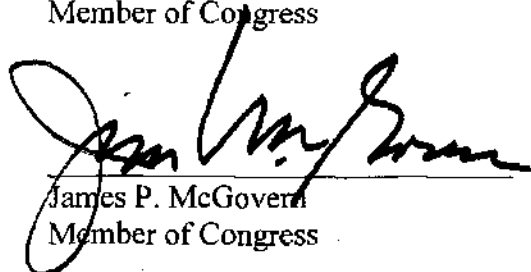

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress


Joe Sestak
Member of Congress


Kathy Dahlkemper
Member of Congress

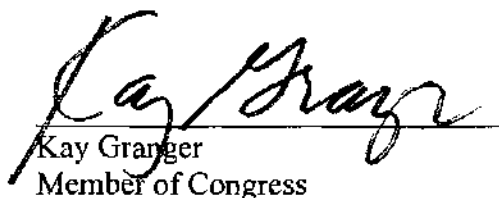

Larry Kissell
Member of Congress

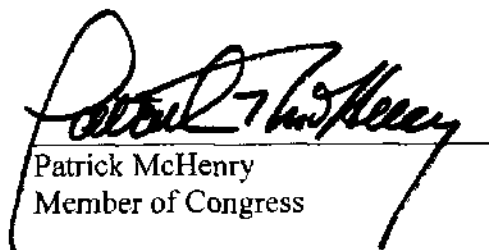

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

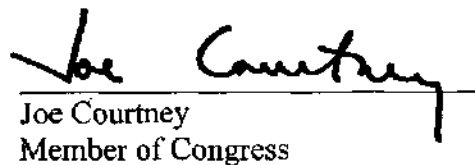

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress


Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

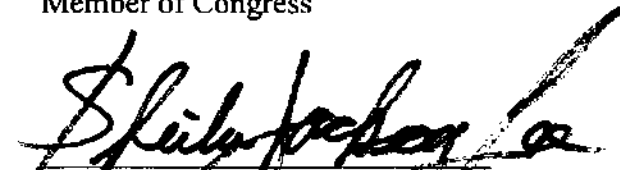

Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

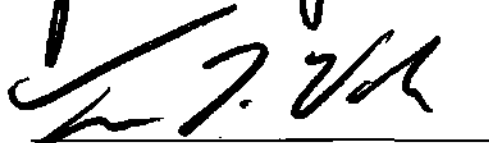

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

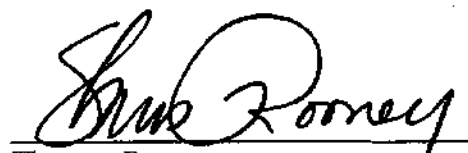

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress

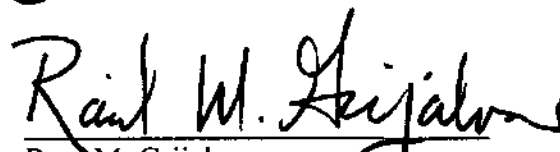

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

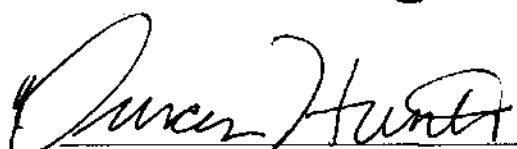

Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress

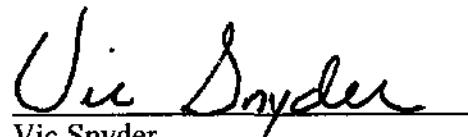

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

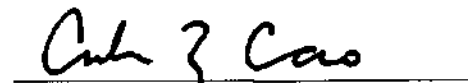

Thomas Rooney
Member of Congress

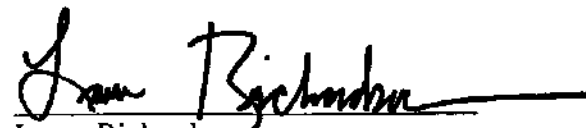

John Campbell
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

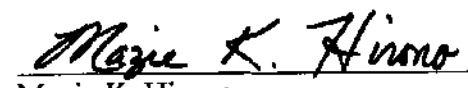

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder
Member of Congress


Joseph Cao
Member of Congress


Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

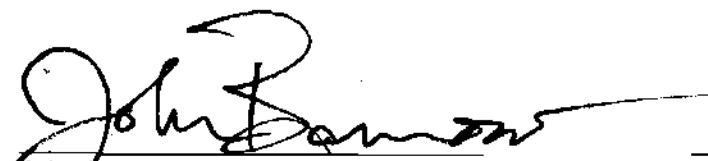

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress


Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress

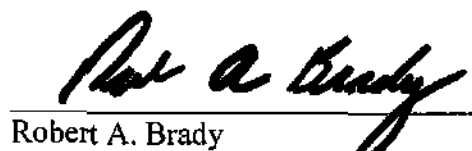

Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

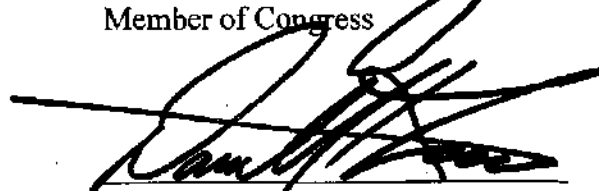

John Barrow
Member of Congress

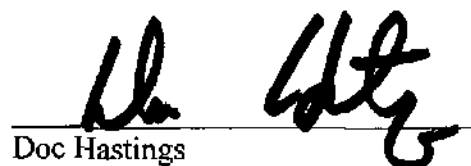

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress


Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Glenn Nye
Member of Congress

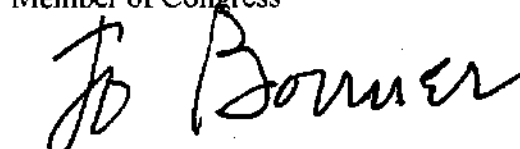

Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

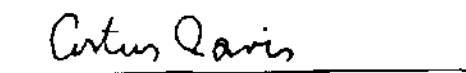

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress


Dave Reichert
Member of Congress


Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress


Jo Bonner
Member of Congress



Debbie Halvorson
Member of Congress

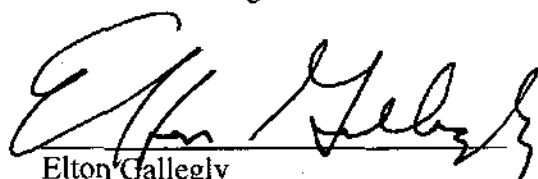

Artur Davis
Member of Congress


Nick Rahall
Member of Congress


Eric Massa
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


John Spratt
Member of Congress


Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

We are writing to express our full support for the current KC-X Air Refueling Tanker Program acquisition timeline. Eight years of delay, not to mention tens of millions of taxpayer dollars spent on previous attempts, has left the U.S. Air Force in dire need of replacing the half a century old KC-135. We are seeking your commitment that the acquisition will remain on schedule.

We recognize that the KC-X acquisition program is the subject of intense interest. However, the need for new tankers is long overdue. The request for proposal and its corresponding timeline released in February specified a 75 day deadline. We believe another delay could cost tax payers several million additional dollars – money that could be spent to construct the planes. We are excited about the prospects of a new tanker fleet and its contributions to future joint operations.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in contact with our offices. We look forward to your response.

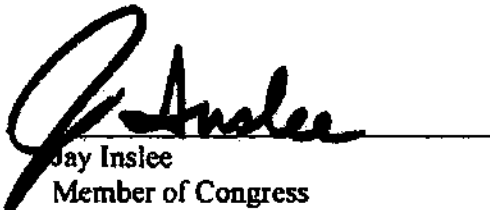
Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



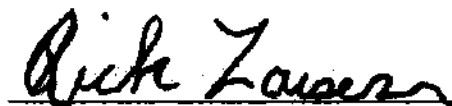
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

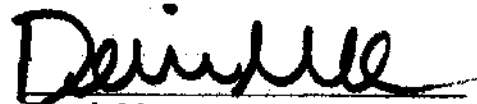


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress





Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



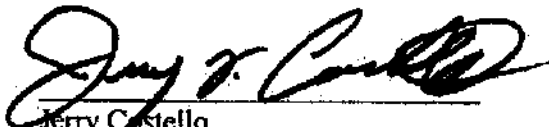
Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



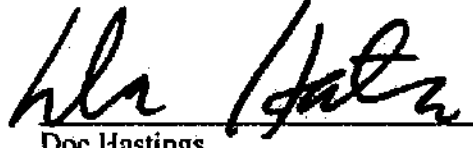
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



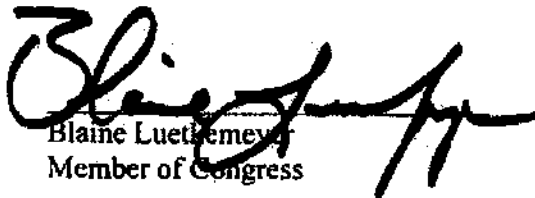
Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress



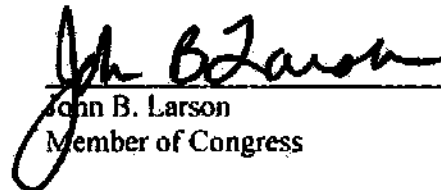
Jerry Costello
Member of Congress



Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write to thank you for your continued support of the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (Joint STARS) and share our concern about the future of this critical program.

Our Joint STARS fleet has provided indispensable intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support to those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. In particular, its wide-area ground surveillance radar has enhanced the ability of our warfighters to track and engage insurgents and improvised explosive devices. We are concerned that, despite the unique contributions of Joint STARS to the fight, the Air Force has acted in ways that are contrary to Congressional and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) direction with respect to this program.

Last September, Under Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter issued an Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) directing the Air Force to immediately identify and obligate funds to develop, test, and procure the initial increment of shipsets for re-engining the Joint STARS fleet. The intent of this ADM was clearly that the Air Force should immediately obligate previously appropriated funds from fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009 to accomplish this effort. Unfortunately, the Air Force failed to do so. We are also very concerned that although Congress provided sufficient funding in FY10 to avoid a costly and unnecessary break in production, the Air Force decided early this year not to procure any shipsets for operational aircraft until FY11.¹

These decisions by the Air Force clearly violated Section 135 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2010, which directed that the "Secretary of the Air Force may not take any action that would adversely impact the pace of execution of the program to replace the engines of Joint STARS aircraft" before submitting a report to Congress describing the optimum path forward for the re-engining program and modernizing the Joint STARS fleet. Although this report was submitted to Congress in May of this year, these Air Force actions and omissions with respect to the re-engining effort pre-date its submission. These decisions will create inefficiencies in the production of the JT-8D engines to be procured under the re-engining program resulting in higher costs for future shipsets.

In light of these developments, we request that you direct the Air Force to follow your staff's directions with regard to Joint STARS re-engining and to execute the FY10



appropriation in a way that prevents a costly break in production for the re-engining effort. We also request that you include funding in the fiscal year 2012 budget request for additional operational engine shipsets.

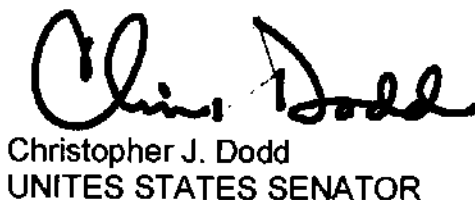
Doing so will preserve the re-engining effort pending the completion of the Air Force's Joint STARS Mission Area Analysis of Alternatives which will provide recommendations for how the Air Force will meet these requirements over the long term.

We thank you as always for your continued service, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Saxby Chambliss
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Christopher J. Dodd
UNITES STATES SENATOR


James M. Inhofe
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Bill Nelson
UNITES STATES SENATOR

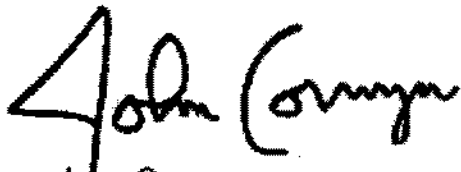

George S. LeMieux
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Mary L. Landrieu
UNITES STATES SENATOR


David Vitter
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Kay R. Hagan
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Richard Burr
UNITES STATES SENATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cornyn".

John Cornyn
UNITES STATES SENATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Isakson".

Johnny Isakson
UNITES STATES SENATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Bailey Hutchison".

Kay Bailey Hutchison
UNITES STATES SENATOR

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our support for the President's budget request for additional non-dual status technicians for the National Guard. Specifically, the Department of Defense budget request for fiscal year 2011 includes an increase on the statutory limit on non-dual status technicians for the Army National Guard from 1,600 to 2,520.

It is our understanding that an increase in non-dual status technicians in the National Guard is required because our National Guard has transformed over the last two decades from a rarely-deployed strategic reserve to a frequently deployed operational force. The frequent deployments of dual status technicians, who both serve as citizen-soldiers and civilian employees of the National Guard, has affected the National Guard's ability to support critical on-going functions in each of our states. This provision of the President's budget request was intended to remedy this situation and ease the strain on our Guardsmen by allowing the hiring of additional non-dual status technicians, or permanent civilian employees who do not deploy.

As you may know, the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have so far diverged in their treatment of this issue. Although the House bill, H.R. 5136, increased the limit to 2,520, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) did not take similar action when marking up its bill, S. 3454. The SASC bill would provide you new authority to temporarily hire civilian employees to fill vacancies caused by deployments, but the Committee deferred taking further action on this issue pending the receipt of a report on the topic mandated by Section 417 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY10 (Public Law 111-84).

In anticipation of full Senate's consideration of the bill and the eventual Conference Committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions, we ask that you ensure that the report required by Section 417 of the NDAA for FY10 is submitted to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees in a timely manner. We believe that it is important for the National Guard to be adequately manned, and hope that this report will set for the clear reasons for why the requested level of 2,520 non-dual status technicians will meet that critical goal.

OSD 08144-10



We thank you for your attention to this request and for your continued service.

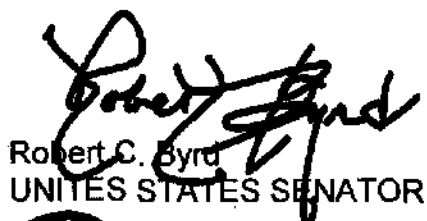
Sincerely,


Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

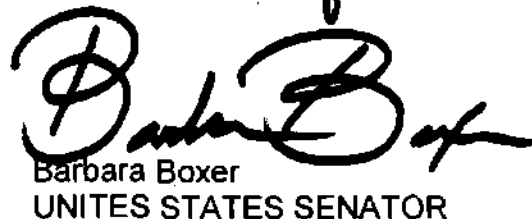

Scott P. Brown
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Patrick J. Leahy
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Christopher S. Bond
UNITES STATES SENATOR

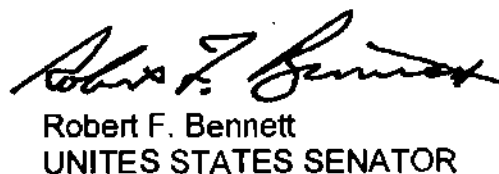

Robert C. Byrd
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Saxby Chambliss
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Barbara Boxer
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Lisa Murkowski
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Christopher J. Dodd
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Robert F. Bennett
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Charles E. Schumer
UNITES STATES SENATOR

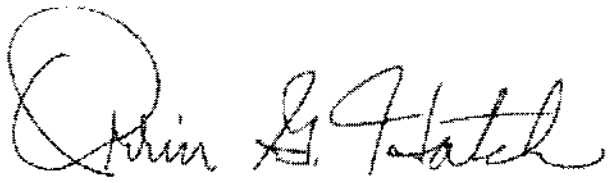

Chuck Grassley
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Mary L. Landrieu
UNITES STATES SENATOR

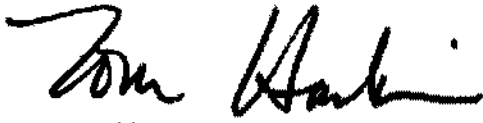

Kay Bailey Hutchison
UNITES STATES SENATOR



John D. Rockefeller IV
UNITES STATES SENATOR



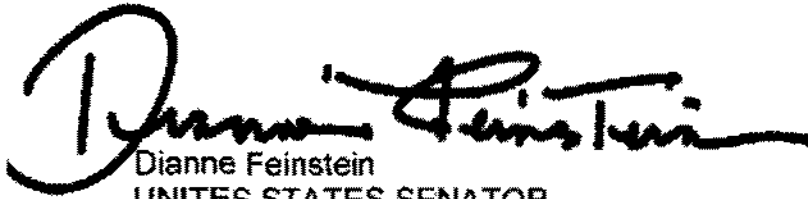
Orrin G. Hatch
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Tom Harkin
UNITES STATES SENATOR



James M. Inhofe
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Dianne Feinstein
UNITES STATES SENATOR



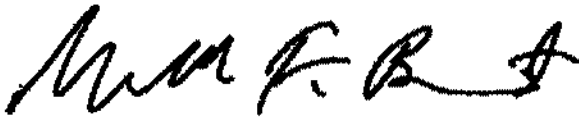
Lamar Alexander
UNITES STATES SENATOR




Jeff Bingaman
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Jim Bunning
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Michael F. Bennet
UNITES STATES SENATOR



David Vitter
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Roland W. Burris
UNITES STATES SENATOR



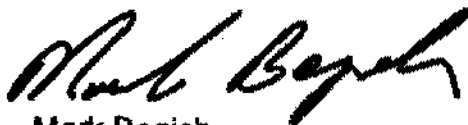
George V. Voinovich
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Mark Udall
UNITES STATES SENATOR



James E. Risch
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Mark Begich
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Al Franken
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Bill Nelson
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Richard Burr
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Bernie Sanders
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Evan Bayh
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Kay R. Hagan
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Patty Murray
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Robert Menendez
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Blanche L. Lincoln
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Frank R. Lautenberg
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Johnny Isakson
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Edward E. Kaufman
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Kirsten E. Gillibrand
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Ron Wyden
UNITES STATES SENATOR


Amy Klobuchar
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Daniel K. Akaka
UNITES STATES SENATOR


John Barrasso
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Maria Cantwell
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Susan Collins
UNITED STATES SENATOR



Claire McCaskill
UNITES STATES SENATOR



George A. LeMieux
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Richard J. Durbin
UNITES STATES SENATOR



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates,

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

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

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

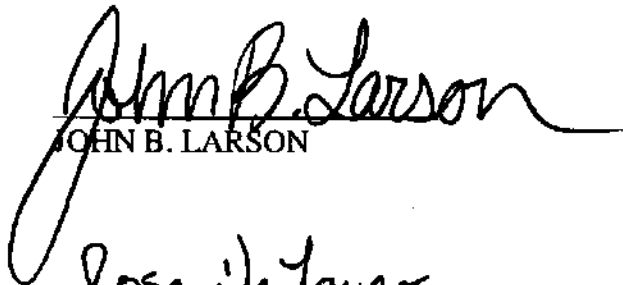
Despite Under Secretary Carter's and the Congress' directive, we see no evidence that the Air Force intends to use designated funds for their intended purpose. As a result, we would request your personal attention in ensuring this important program is put back on track.

OSD 08610-10

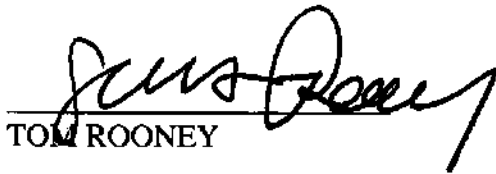


As always, thank you for your attention to this matter and for the exemplary leadership that you provide our nation's armed forces.

Sincerely,


JOHN B. LARSON


ROSA DELAURO

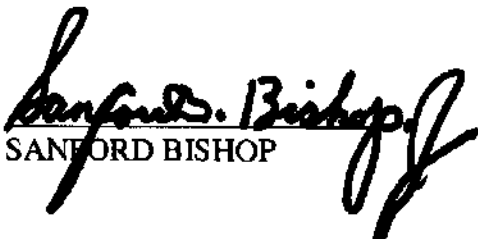

TOM ROONEY

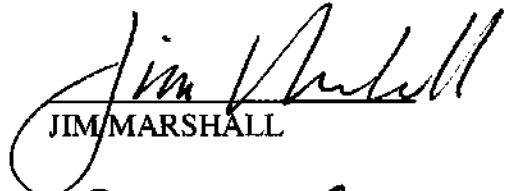

JOE COURTNEY


DOUG LAMBORN

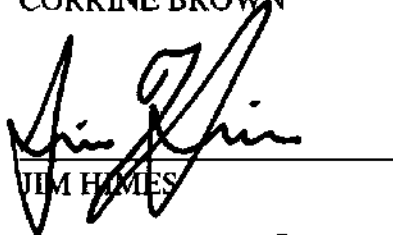

LYNN WESTMORELAND


ANDER CRENSHAW


SANFORD BISHOP


JIM MARSHALL


CORRINE BROWN


JIM HIMES


GUS BILIRAKIS


BILL POSEY


CHRIS MURPHY


SUZANNE KOSMAS

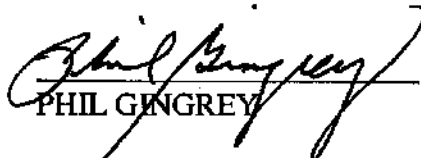

LARRY KISSELL


ALAN MOLLOHAN


JOHN L. MICA



MARK S. CRITZ


LEONARD BOSWELL


PHIL GINGREY


WALTER JONES


MIKE MCINTYRE


JEFF MILLER


PAUL BROUN


KENDRICK MEEK


MICHAEL ARCURI


ELIOT ENGEL

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
The Pentagon, Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301 - 1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We have written in the past to express our profound disappointment at the failure of the Air Force to consider the multibillion dollar illegal launch aid subsidies given to EADS by the European Union. These subsidies caused serious and ongoing distortion in the global market for large aircraft, causing substantial harm to the American aerospace industry.

Earlier today, the World Trade Organization (WTO) issued a final ruling which confirms what the U.S. government has alleged for years – EADS has received billions in illegal subsidies from the EU, and these subsidies are illegal.

We are concerned that illegal subsidies will distort the KC-X competition unless action is taken by the Air Force to create a level playing field by acknowledging the existence of these subsidies and taking steps to nullify the advantage they have given EADS. Giving appropriate and due consideration to these bid distorting subsidies in determining whom to award the contract will ensure a fair, open and transparent competition.


Our concern is shared by an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives. On May 27th, the House passed by a vote of 410 to 8 an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act requiring that the Department of Defense consider any unfair competitive advantage an offeror may possess in the KC-X aerial refueling tanker competition.

With the vote taken on May 27th, the House of Representatives said that the KC-X contract has to be fair. A contract awarded without consideration of Airbus' illegal subsidies would be deeply flawed.

We ask that you quickly begin the process of ascertaining the extent to which the illegal subsidies have given EADS an unfair competitive advantage. We also ask that you quickly take steps to neutralize such unfair competitive advantage, in order that the tanker competition can proceed and a contract can be awarded without delays.

We look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,


JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress


TODD TIAHRT
Member of Congress





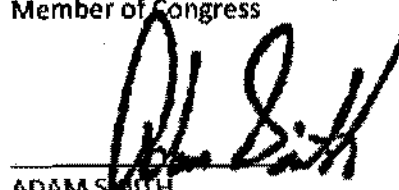
RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



DONALD A. MANZULLO
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



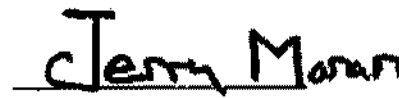
LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress



MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
Member of Congress



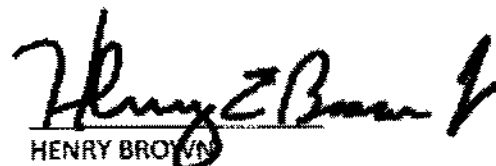
DOC HASTINGS
Member of Congress



JERRY MORAN
Member of Congress



JERRY F. COSTELLO
Member of Congress



HENRY BROWN
Member of Congress



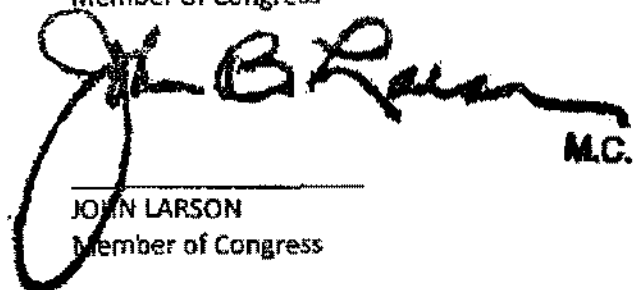
BETTY SUTTON
Member of Congress



DAN BURTON
Member of Congress



ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress


M.C.

JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



CHARLES GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



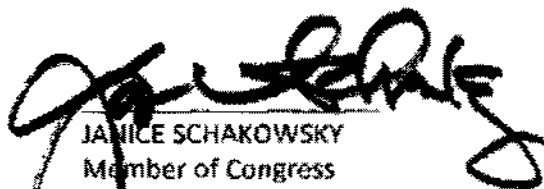
DAVID LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



NORM DICKS
Member of Congress



PHIL HARE
Member of Congress



JANICE SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Gates,

We write in strong support of your continued effort to end the F136 Alternate Engine program for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). As you have said throughout your tenure with the Department of Defense, this program represents "an unnecessary and extravagant expense" that must be eliminated if we are to properly fund our nation's warfighters. We couldn't agree more, and it is with this sentiment that we respectfully request that you take the necessary action to end this program at the conclusion of the current continuing resolution.


As you know, in 2009 during debate on the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate voted 59-38 in opposition to adding funding for the JSF Alternate Engine program. Subsequent to this vote, the Senate has not included funds for the extra engine in either the defense authorization or appropriations bills. In fact, on February 18, 2011, Senator Carl Levin, the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee stated in reference to funding the Alternate Engine program, that he, "doubt[s] very much [the Senate] will do it this year."

The comments by Chairman Levin came just days after action by the House of Representatives to terminate the Alternate Engine program. On February 16, 2011, the House approved by a vote of 233-198 an amendment offered by Representative Tom Rooney that struck all funding for the Alternate Engine program from the proposed Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011. This action puts the House on the record as opposing all funding for the Alternate Engine program through the remainder of fiscal year 2011, and should provide you with the flexibility to terminate funding for the program at the end of the current continuing resolution.

With the release of the fiscal year 2012 Defense budget you stated, "I will look at all available legal options to close down [the Alternate Engine program]." We appreciate your strong position on this matter and hope that later this week you will be allowed to follow through on your commitment to end the program. The House and Senate have both spoken on this matter. It is time that we stop wasting nearly \$1 million per day to continue a program that will surely be terminated.

Thank you again for the continued leadership you provide our nation's Armed Forces. We look forward to your prompt response on this matter.

Sincerely,



John E. Larson
United States Representative



Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

OSD 02821-11



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
US Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta,

We are writing to ask you to correct an oversight by the Department of Defense, and properly honor the sacrifice of International Police Advisors who have been killed while working for the U.S. military.

As you know, the Department of Defense has awarded several qualified International Police Advisors (IPA) the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom. However, so far, that recognition appears to have been limited to wounded IPAs, and no IPAs killed in the line of duty have received this award.

The military has a very efficient system to nominate and award killed or injured soldiers the Purple Heart. There is no such structured protocol in place for IPAs working side by side with the military – sometimes even killed or injured in the same incidents. Injured IPAs, who can still help identify the many military officers whose signatures are needed to receive the award, are able to receive recognition. However, IPAs that have been killed are usually represented by their family or an outside group like the Civilian Police Officer's Alumni Association (CAA). These advocates are unable to identify the correct officers and deal with the significant paperwork involved in getting the IPA recognized.

The International Civilian Police Officer's Alumni Association (CAA) recently brought to our attention their multi-year effort to secure proper recognition for a number of officers killed in the line of duty. Included among these brave Americans is Oregonian Deborah Klecker. Ms. Klecker served for 19 years as a sheriff's deputy in Marion County, Oregon. During her career, she built an impeccable professional reputation exemplified through her service on the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Board and the Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund Board. When provided the opportunity to serve her nation overseas, she did not hesitate.

On June 27, 2005, Deputy Klecker was killed when she, and the Iraqi police she mentored, were attacked with an improvised explosive device. If Deputy Klecker had been a soldier, her unit would have immediately started the paperwork to see to it that she was awarded the Purple Heart. However, because she was a civilian IPA, no effort was made to see to it that she was awarded the civilian equivalent, the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom. Once the CAA began trying to advocate for Deputy Klecker, time, distance, and rotation of personnel in and out of combat zones had combined to create a situation where it is impossible to complete the necessary paperwork required by current rules.



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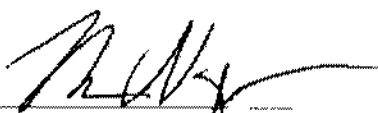
IPAs who answered the call of duty, served faithfully, and made the ultimate sacrifice have been denied recognition because of an overly difficult system. Without your direct intervention, we fear that Deputy Klecker, her fallen colleagues, and future deceased IPAs will never receive the recognition they deserve.

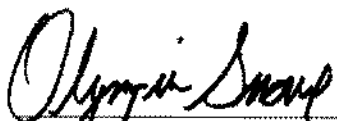
We have attached a current list of eligible IPA officers. The CAA has vetted these officers, finding them deserving of the medal, but efforts to recognize these deserving patriots continue to encounter bureaucratic hurdles. For the families and friends of the fallen officers, recognition would provide a chance to heal, reflect, and find closure.


We respectfully request that you create a less onerous method for family members and groups like CAA to nominate IPAs and other deserving civilians to receive the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom, and see to it that all of those who are eligible for the award because they were killed in the line of duty, receive it.


Thank you for your swift attention to this important matter.


Sincerely,


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Olympia Snowe
United States Senator


Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Jeff Merkley
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Al Franken
United States Senator


Tim Johnson
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta:

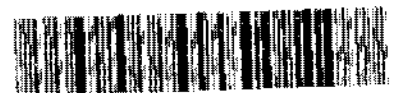
Thank you for your leadership of the Department of Defense (DoD) during these difficult times. We are proud to support DoD installations that employ military, civilian, and contractor personnel who make invaluable contributions towards ensuring our national security.

We understand that the defense budget must be adjusted to take into account geopolitical changes and budgetary realities. However, under your predecessor, the "Efficiency Initiative" had a disproportionately adverse impact on civilian personnel. Under this plan, the size of the civilian workforce would be cut back to FY 2010 levels, while no comparable constraints were imposed on the contractor workforce.

The unique constraints that DoD has placed on the civilian workforce have raised concerns that managers could be prevented from using civilian employees even when they cost less or the work is sufficiently sensitive or important that it should be performed by civilian employees. Surely, we can all agree that DoD's sourcing decisions should be made on the basis of the law, cost, policy, and risk, and that it makes no sense to prevent DoD managers from using civilian employees simply because they are civilian employees.

That is why we strongly urge you to ensure that DoD complies with all sourcing and workforce management laws, both those that are longstanding as well as those that were included in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Public Law 112-81. Specifically, we recommend:

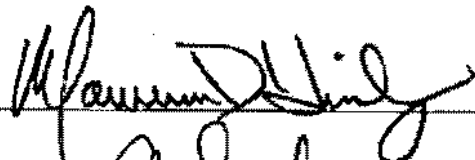

1. **Eliminate the arbitrary cap on the civilian workforce.** If there is work to be done and funding to pay for that work, managers should not be arbitrarily prevented from using civilian employees (10 USC 129). Commercial functions should be shifted back and forth on the basis of costs (10 USC 129a). The FY 2010 cap on the civilian workforce should be lifted so that sourcing decisions can be based on the merits, rather than arbitrary constraints. We urge you to provide the Defense Human Resources Board with the support and leadership necessary to eliminate the cap.
2. **Embrace Total Force Management.** Instead of managing civilian personnel by arbitrary constraints, we urge the Department to embrace the new Total Force Management authorities provided in the FY12 NDAA to ensure that the Department looks at its military, civilian, and contractor workforces more holistically.

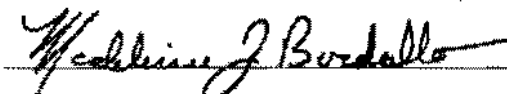



3. **Cap spending on service contracts.** Until the cap on the civilian workforce is lifted, we strongly urge the Department, particularly the Comptroller's office, to comply with the FY 2012 NDAA that caps spending on service contracts at FY 2010 levels. If the Department insists on capping the civilian workforce at FY 2010 levels, a similar cap should be applied to the service contract spending levels.
4. **Conduct cost comparisons when making outsourcing decisions.** DoD cannot convert a function last performed by civilian employees to contractor performance without conducting a formal cost comparison (10 USC 2461). We are pleased that the Department issued guidance in December in order to enhance compliance with this prohibition. We urge you to place a high priority on implementing these reforms.
5. **Implement inventory of contract services.** We appreciate that DoD has come to an agreement on implementing an inventory of contract services. We urge the Department to be aggressive in overcoming any procedural concerns related to the Paperwork Reduction Act and that the inventory be implemented in such a way that it allows for the identification and control of costs, including identifying and preventing over-execution of spending, as well as distinguishing base spending from Overseas Contingency Operations spending. Finally, we urge the Department to respect the conclusion reached by conferees to the FY 2012 NDAA that "the appropriate use of public-private competition is predicated on a sound planning process and the availability of accurate information, including the information that would be supplied by a compliant inventory."
6. **Prohibit outsourcing of inherently governmental work.** We urge the Department to comply with the FY 2012 NDAA that no inherently governmental work be privatized and that reliance on contractors for the performance of work closely associated with inherently governmental functions should be incrementally reduced. Finally, we urge the Department to adhere to the insourcing laws that were reaffirmed in the FY 2012 NDAA and make insourcing decisions on the basis of the usual criteria of the law, cost, policy, and risk, instead of arbitrary targets or constraints.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. As the Department ensures our nation's security, while adjusting to budgetary realities, it is imperative that we value and appreciate the remarkable work done by our civilian personnel. The best way we can do that is by ensuring that the Department is fully compliant with sourcing and workforce management laws.

Sincerely,

Phil Vollen

Bob Carlin

Paul Zick

Bruce Braly

Doug C. Bates

Betty Sutton

Ernie Ann

Ken Johnson

Ti Gr

Mazie K. Hirono

Peter Welch

Glynn J. Schumtz

Michael McHondan

Betty M. Gellum

Michael H. Mendenhall

Niki Tomgo

Raul M. Hijarwa

Juan D. Quinn

Dave Lubinski

John C. Carney

Michael E. Caputo

Ron Kind

Greg Pridemore

John Perry

Jim Sanger
J. H. Lin

Jodi Sp
Jo Sacramento

Frank Pallant

Jason Ottomire

Kent Schneider

Jim M. Brown

Mike Dingle

Samuel D. Bishop Jr

Bob Fisher

Quelbeckson

Pick Larson

Bob A. Bandy

Joe Courtney

~~_____~~

~~_____~~ Lewis

Donna F. Edwards

~~_____~~

Bill Owen

Paul D. Conner

Elly Salting

John M. Young

Wm. J. Clegg

Edward Shaw

Joe Bana

Art M. Lee

Bill Bassett Jr

George B. Niles

Ann DeLette

John Russell

Corine Brown

Eugene Brannin

John DeLette

John Fash

William L. Warr

Stan Nall

Charles B. Rangel

Alfred Hastings

John L. Lee

John F. Tamm

John M. May

L. M.

John R. Keating

Paul Smith

John B. Smith

Colin C. Lee

William R. Boyd Allard

T. Hild

He Hild

Bernie J. Thompson

Steve Isaac

Carlson

Deming J. Kucinski

Rosa L. DeLaur

Eliot L. Engel

Boyd J. Ruth

Swanburn

Edmunds

Lis Capps

James Hahn

Louise M. Slaughter

Brian Hays

C.A. Dutch Huppertberger

J.P. Sh

Sammy Baldwin

Shirley Jones Sr.

Ken O. Weyman

Robert E. And

E. E. Canning

Joe E. Evans

George Miller

Betty

Louella Sanchez

Adel Deidol

Amos L. Gannely

Yvonne D. Clarke

Steve Cohen

Larry Kinner

Cher Lee

Nike McIntyre

Elaine H. Hunt

Darryl L. Ackerman

Danny K. Davis

Rash Holt

Sam Farr

M S S

Keith Eli

Jim Mc Dermott

Marcia L. Dodge

Judy Allen

Randee Clarke

Pats Allen

Chad E. Childers

Nancy Kaptur

Pat R.

Grace S. Napolitano

Christopher Meade

Joseph P. ...
Daniel P. ...

Edward J. Mackey

Lynnn Woolsey

Harvey ...

Signed by the following 131 Members of Congress:

Gary Ackerman (NY-05)
Jason Altmire (PA-04)
Robert Andrews (NJ-01)
Joe Baca (CA-43)
Tammy Baldwin (WI-02)
Xavier Becerra (CA-31)
Sanford Bishop (GA-02)
Susanne Bonamici (OR-01)
Madeleine Bordallo (GU-AL)
Dan Boren (OK-02)
Leonard Boswell (IA-03)
Robert Brady (PA-01)
Bruce Braley (IA-01)
Carrine Brown (FL-03)
Lois Capps (CA-23)
Michael Capuano (MA-08)
Russ Carnahan (MO-03)
John Carney (DE-AL)
Judy Chu (CA-32)
David Cicilline (RI-01)
Hansen Clarke (MI-13)
Yvette Clarke (NY-11)
William Lacy Clay (MO-01)
Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05)
Steve Cohen (TN-09)
John Conyers (MI-14)
Joe Courtney (CT-02)
Mark Critz (PA-12)
Joseph Crowley (NY-07)
Elijah Cummings (MD-07)
Susan Davis (CA-53)
Danny Davis (IL-07)
Peter DeFazio (OR-04)
Diana DeGette (CO-01)
Rosa DeLauro (CT-03)
Theodore Deutch (FL-19)
Norman Dicks (WA-06)
John Dingell (MI-15)
Michael Doyle (PA-14)
Donna Edwards (MD-04)
Keith Ellison (MN-05)
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Sam Farr (CA-17)
Chaka Fattah (PA-02)

Bob Filner (CA-51)
Marcia Fudge (OH-11)
John Garamendi (CA-10)
Gene Green (TX-29)
Raul Grijalva (AZ-07)
Janice Hahn (CA-36)
Colleen Hanabusa (HI-01)
Alcee Hastings (FL-23)
Martin Heinrich (NM-01)
Brian Higgins (NY-27)
Maurice Hinchey (NY-22)
Mazie Hirono (HI-02)
Tim Holden (PA-17)
Rush Holt (NJ-12)
Michael Honda (CA-15)
Steve Israel (NY-02)
Jesse Jackson (IL-02)
Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18)
Henry Johnson (GA-04)
Marcy Kaptur (OH-09)
William Keating (MA-10)
Dale Kildee (MI-05)
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Larry Kissell (NC-08)
Dennis Kucinich (OH-10)
James Langevin (RI-02)
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Sander Levin (MI-12)
John Lewis (GA-05)
Daniel Lipinski (IL-03)
David Loebsack (IA-02)
Nita Lowey (NY-18)
Stephen Lynch (MA-09)
Carolyn Maloney (NY-14)
Edward Markey (MA-07)
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Jim McDermott (WA-07)
James McGovern (MA-03)
Mike McIntyre (NC-07)
Jerry McNerney (CA-11)
Gregory Meeks (NY-06)
Michael Michaud (ME-02)
Brad Miller (NC-13)
George Miller (CA-07)
Gwen Moore (WI-4)
Chris Murphy (CT-05)

Grace Napolitano (CA-38)
Richard Neal (MA-02)
Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC-AL)
Bill Owens (NY-23)
Frank Pallone (NJ-06)
Bill Pascrell (NJ-08)
Gary Peters (MI-09)
Collin Peterson (MN-07)
Chellie Pingree (ME-01)
David Price (NC-04)
Charles Rangel (NY-15)
Silvestre Reyes (TX-16)
Laura Richardson (CA-37)
Steven Rothman (NJ-09)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34)
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Bobby Rush (IL-01)
Tim Ryan (OH-17)
Loretta Sanchez (CA-39)
John Sarbanes (MD-03)
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Kurt Schrader (OR-05)
Allyson Schwartz (PA-13)
Robert Scott (VA-03)
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Adam Schiff (CA-29)
Bobby Schilling (IL-17)
Louise Slaughter (NY-28)
Adam Smith (WA-09)
Jackie Speier (CA-12)
Betty Sutton (OH-13)
Bernie Thompson (MS-02)
John Tierney (MA-6)
Paul Tonko (NY-21)
Edolphus Towns (NY-10)
Niki Tsongas (MA-5)
Chris Van Hollen (MD-8)
Mel Watt (NC-12)
Henry Waxman (CA-30)
Peter Welch (VT-AL)
Lynn Woolsey (CA-06)

USA
RDC
DOI 24 Apr
5:5 May
173 sergeants

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our concern over the future of the U.S. combat vehicle industrial base.

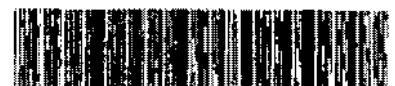
The Defense Strategic Guidance you unveiled in January calls for significant reductions in the armed forces, especially in the Army and Marine Corps, as well as sacrifices in investment programs. Regarding the U.S. industrial base, the guidance calls for protecting critical industries as the nation adapts to the new defense posture. You and your leadership team have referenced tactical aviation and shipbuilding as just two industries that require continuous national support to remain viable.

However, the strategy neglects the U.S. combat vehicle industrial base. The combat vehicle industrial base is a unique asset that consists of hundreds of public and private facilities across the United States. Despite this, the FY 2013 President's Budget request proposes to terminate U.S. tank production for the first time since before World War II.

The Army specifically proposes to shut down the tank industrial base and then reconstitute it in 2017 to produce further upgrades to the M1 Abrams tank as well as the new Ground Combat Vehicle. While international sales opportunities for Abrams appear stronger than prior years, they are inadequate to sustain the industrial base and in some cases uncertain. In light of this, modest and continued Abrams production for the Army is necessary to preserve the industrial base.

Another important tenet of the Defense Strategic Guidance notes that because the future Army and Marine Corps will be smaller and leaner, they must retain the quality and capability that will allow them to fight and win on future battlefields. Indeed, to quote Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey, "capability is more important than size." We agree. To that end, we support the continued production of the M1A2 SEP tank, which is the world's most capable tank featuring survivability and seamless connection to the digital network and of far higher quality than the older M1A1 Abrams tank.

The debate over the fate of the U.S. combat vehicle industrial base is not new. The Congress in bipartisan fashion supported additional tank upgrades in the FY 2012 Defense Authorization and Appropriations Acts to forestall shutdown of the industrial



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Paul E. Under

Mike McIntyre

Glenn Emerson

Jim Mann

Steve R.

Max 7h

John B. Adams

Walter B. Jones

Jeff Miller

Mike Robell

J. R. G. G. G.

Eel Pastor

John H. H.

Robert E. H.

SLN North

Dave Lusk

June Camp

C. A. North Rappaport

J. D. Ry

Hansen Clarke

James P. Smith

Rene E. Jarn

Bob J. Witten

Frank Graded

Tim Ryan

Peter Welch

John Rooney

Renee S. Ellmers

Ailly Long

Gene F. Lee

Rail M. Lujaba

David J. Kell

Herb

Rene E. Jarn

Betty Sutton

McBrooke

Bennis Thompson

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Jim McEwen

J. J. J.

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Bill Owens

Frank Kelley

P. J. P.

Mattie Kelly

John R. Carter

Tom Marino

L. L. L.

Paul A. M. T. C.

Alvin. Polyzos

Bill Shuster

Levin Yach

Steve Lynd

Charles F. Boaz

Edna Kelly

Ralph M. Hall

Frankie Banks

Samuel D. B. Lyne

Don Coe

Steve Israel

Joan Schmitt

Steve Abbott

Glenn Smith

Jimmy Costello

Mike R

John Lo Bando

K. M. Pitts Long

Todd R. R.

Brian Hogen

Bryce Kelly

Sam Johnson

Bill Hirsch

Harold Johnson

E. C. Felt

Paul Marie Buehler

Grace Bailey

Allen B. West

Blaine J. Jorgensen

Stan Wamsick

Larry Knull

Nugent W. Metcher

John Callahan

Carlson

Br. Or

Fred D. Lewis

	Member	District	Member	District
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	Steve Austria	OH-07	Jim McGovern	MA-03
	Mario Díaz-Balart	FL-21	Gerry Connolly	VA-11
	Bill Owens	NY-23	Tim Walberg	MI-07
	David Rivera	FL-25	Martha Roby	AL-02
	John Carter	TX-31	Tom Marino	PA-10
	Dennis Ross	FL-12	David McKinley	WV-01
	Steven Palazzo	MS-04	Colleen Hanabusa	HI-01
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	Bill Johnson	OH-06	Bob Gibbs	OH-18
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	Tim Bishop	NY-01	Martin Heinrich	NM-01
	Scott Rigell	VA-02	Aaron Schock	IL-18
	Joe Walsh	IL-08	Mike Doyle	PA-14
	Doug Lamborn	CO-05	Paul Gosar	AZ-01
	Lou Barletta	PA-11	Michael Grimm	NY-13
	Pat Meehan	PA-07	Dan Benishek	MI-01
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	Charles Bass	NH-02	Chris Smith	NJ-04
	Elton Gallegly	CA-24	Jerry Costello	IL-12
	Ralph Hall	TX-04	Mike Ross	AR-04
	Trent Franks	AZ-02	Frank LoBiondo	NJ-02
	Sanford Bishop	GA-02	K. Michael Conaway	TX-11
	Jim Gerlach	PA-06	Todd Platts	PA-19
	Steve Israel	NY-02	Brian Higgins	NY-27
	Jean Schmidt	OH-02	Bobby Schilling	IL-17
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	Sandy Adams	FL-24	Jeff Duncan	SC-03
	David Scott	GA-13	Mike Pompeo	KS-04
	Peter Roskam	IL-06	Mary Bono Mack	CA-45
	James Renacci	OH-16	Chris Murphy	CT-05
	Chip Cravaack	MN-08	Mike Kelly	PA-03
	Ander Crenshaw	FL-04	Leonard Lance	NJ-07
	Andre Carson	IN-07	Lee Terry	NE-02
	Rosa DeLauro	CT-03	Thomas Petri	WI-06
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	Bill Huizenga	MI-02	Larry Kissell	NC-08
	Henry Johnson	GA-04	Gregory Meeks	NY-06
	Gary Peters	MI-09	John Culberson	TX-07
	Ann Marie Beurkle	NY-25	Dan Boren	OK-02
	Bruce Braley	IA-01	Ben Quayle	AZ-03
	Allen West	FL-22	Frank Lucas	OK-03
	Blaine Luetkemeyer	MO-09		

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2013

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary
United States Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, District of Columbia 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We write to bring your attention to provisions in the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 to strengthen the adoption, care, and recognition of retired military working dogs. As you know, these canine heroes not only serve with our troops in Afghanistan and elsewhere, saving countless lives by detecting bombs and intruders, but they also continue to provide companionship for our veterans and other Americans after they retire. We are pleased that the NDAA and accompanying Senate report recognize the service of military working dogs, and we encourage you to work with the secretaries of each military department to implement the statutory changes in the NDAA.

First, Section 371(a) authorizes each military secretary to transfer retired dogs to the 341st Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base or another suitable location to facilitate the dogs' adoption. We have heard from many of our constituents, including former handlers of the dogs and other veterans, who would like to adopt the dogs but cannot afford to transfer them from overseas upon their retirement. We urge you to take advantage of this statutory authority to ensure that all retired dogs are transferred to suitable locations for adoption.

Second, Section 371(b) authorizes you to establish and maintain a system to provide for the veterinary care of retired military working dogs. Given that the Department of Defense is familiar with the specific medical issues associated with the service of military working dogs, it can provide valuable guidance to improve the quality and lower the costs of veterinary care. We encourage you to implement this statutory change in a manner that allows for the participation of nonprofit organizations capable of assisting in the execution of this provision.

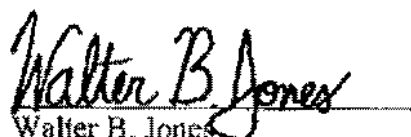
Third, we are supportive of the Senate Armed Services Committee report accompanying the NDAA which recognizes the outstanding contributions and value of military working dogs and encourages the Department of Defense to honor the service of all military working dogs, especially those who perform exceptionally meritorious service. We also recommend that you provide a letter of commendation to each military working dog that identifies its meritorious service and provide additional recognition as you deem appropriate.

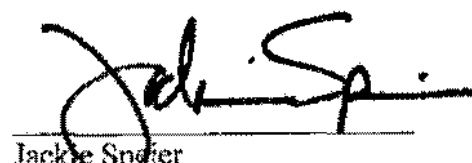


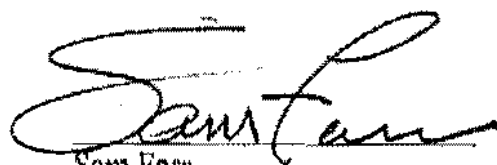
While not included in the NDAA, we also encourage you to reexamine the current classification of military working dogs as "equipment." As cosponsors of the Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act, we believe these dogs deserve a designation befitting their extraordinary service. A provision on reclassification of military working dogs was included in the House passed-version of the NDAA. While we understand that dogs are not treated the same as guns or tanks, we feel that classifying them as "canine members of the armed forces" would reflect the human lives they have saved and the contributions they have made to our military operations.

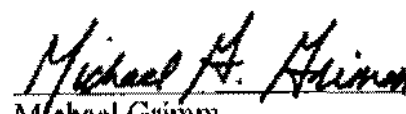
We look forward to working with you to strengthen the care of these amazing animals. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss these details further. Thank you for your continued service to our country.

Sincerely,

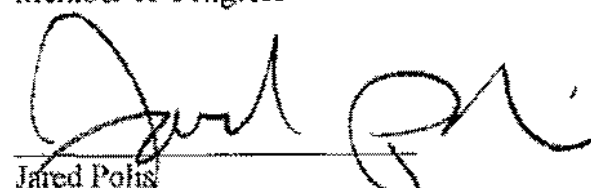

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

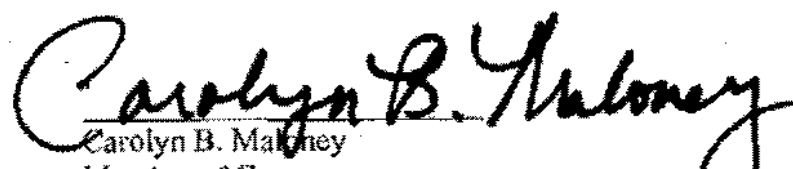

Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Michael Grimm
Member of Congress


John Conyers
Member of Congress

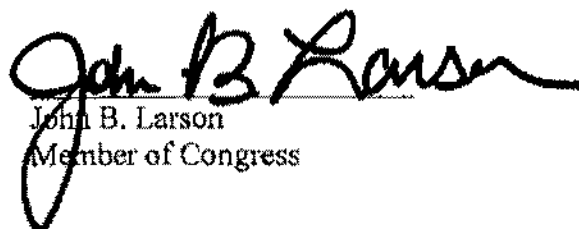

Jared Polis
Member of Congress


James P. Moran
Member of Congress

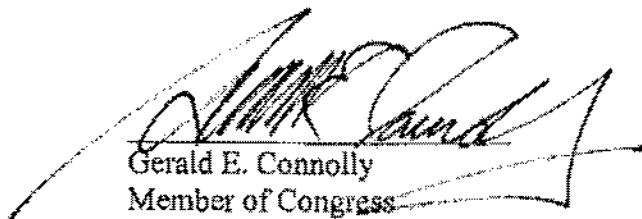

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



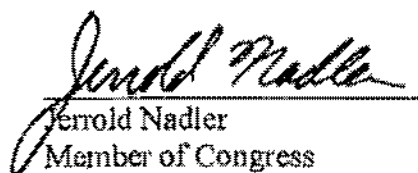
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

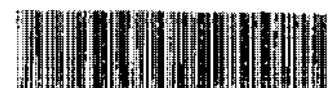
As you know, the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requires TRICARE to implement a pilot program improving coverage and delivery of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) under the TRICARE basic program for all eligible beneficiaries with an autism spectrum disorder. The law requires the pilot program to be implemented within 90 days.

As you are aware, despite the final language within the 2013 NDAA conference report, the House and Senate did approve in bipartisan votes amendments to permanently cover behavioral health treatment, including ABA, under TRICARE basic. In addition, we continue to believe that the Department could and should use its administrative authority to make this change.

Nonetheless, as sponsors and supporters of the Caring for Military Kids With Autism Act and the amendments that passed, we are committed to ensuring the success of the pilot program and to ensuring appropriate coverage and access to ABA treatment. To achieve this however, we believe that it is incumbent on the Department to also do everything it can to make sure that families are receiving the treatment they deserve.

This begins with transparency in the process of developing the program. We believe that in addition to notifying members of Congress, TRICARE must communicate and collaborate with military families during the process of developing the pilot program. Engaging with these families as well as independent subject matter experts outside of the Department of Defense will help provide vital insight for the Department in ensuring that children are receiving the highest level of care. In providing this care, we also believe that TRICARE policies should be consistent with best practices. This includes models that cover technicians and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts, to help make certain that there is sufficient access to care.

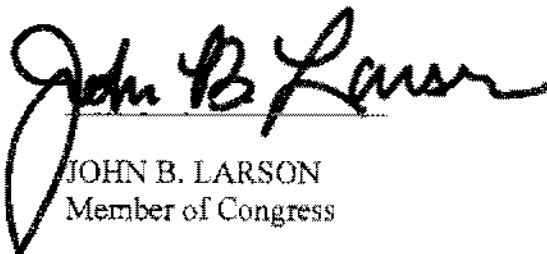
Finally, we urge and expect you to implement this pilot program promptly and without delay. These families have sacrificed tremendously for this country and the children of our men and women in uniform deserve full access to the treatment they require. We know that you are



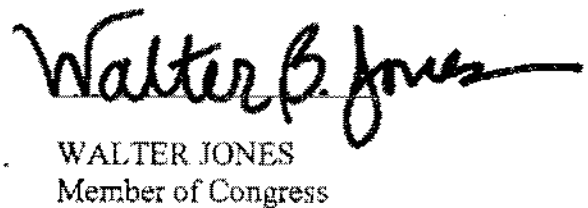
committed to providing high quality care for our military families and we hope to work as partners in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Given the short time frame before implementation is required, we look forward to hearing back from you shortly.

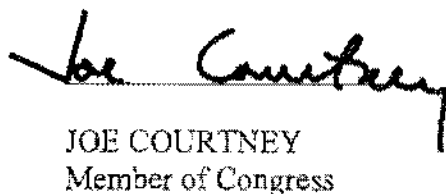
Sincerely,



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



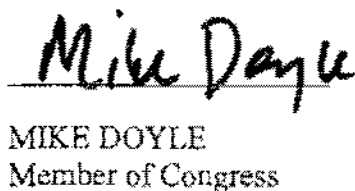
WALTER JONES
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



TOM ROONEY
Member of Congress



MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress

cc: Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Director, TRICARE Management Activity

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you proceed with your strategic review of the Department's priorities, we would request that you also turn your attention to one of the Department's most strategic assets: its civilian personnel. Specifically, we ask that you review sequestration-related actions with respect to civilian personnel, particularly the widespread use of furloughs, the firing of temporary and term employees, and the freeze on new hires.

These actions currently being implemented were announced in the January 10 guidance issued by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, long before the Department knew the specific funding levels that would be available to it for the entirety of fiscal year 2013. H.R. 933, the Consolidated and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013, increases funding to the Department's Operation and Maintenance accounts from FY12 to FY13 by an amount that exceeds the anticipated savings from the actions imposed in the January 10 guidance.

It is increasingly clear that these actions are threatening to undermine mission performance and, as a result, mission readiness. We understand that your office is currently reviewing installations' and components' petitions for relief, either because implementation will increase costs — e.g., the workforce will have to work overtime to complete work by contractual deadlines — or is not necessary, e.g., because an installation has workload already funded through a Working Capital Fund. However, to date we have been told only that all civilian furloughs are being applied in the same manner across the Department, regardless of whether a service component or defense agency has the resources to buy back the furlough days.

Additionally, the manner in which the Department is imposing furloughs exacts punishing reductions on components and agencies that downsized their civilian staffs in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 in compliance with prior Defense guidance, while appearing to reward departments and agencies that did not shed workforce. In essence, under the current furlough guidance, the more streamlined, efficient organizations are footing the bill for those that are still over strength.

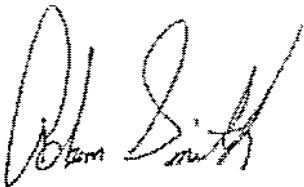


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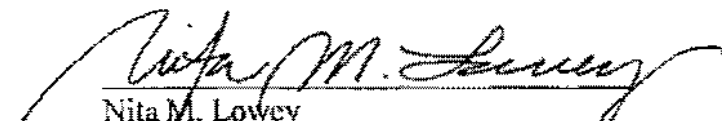
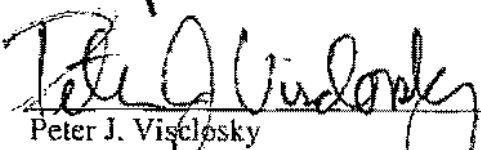
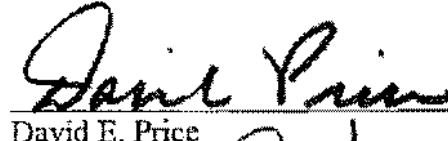
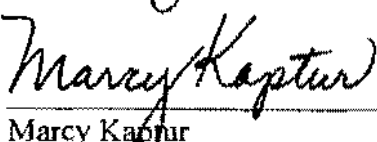
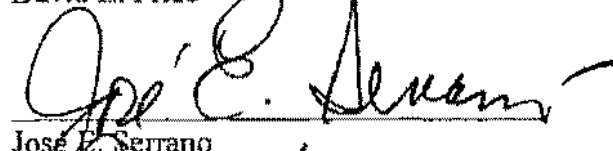
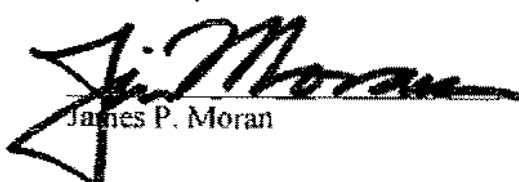
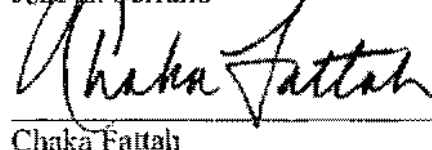
As sequestration continues, the Department inevitably will also have to reduce spending on service contracts. However, even though new civilian hiring is all but stopped, the same constraint might not be imposed on new contracts. Even though temporary and term employees are being systematically fired, not all service contracts will be terminated. Even though the vast majority of civilian employees are being subjected to furloughs which could result in a 20% reduction in income, not all service contracts will be reduced in scope by one-fifth.

We are not taking the position that civilian personnel should not bear sacrifices because of sequestration. Rather, we strongly urge the Department to make merit-based versus indiscriminate decisions on furloughs and firing temporary and term employees and that managers be allowed the discretion to make offsetting cuts to comply with sequestration.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith


Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Robert J. Wittman
Michael R. Turner
Robert E. Andrews
Walter B. Jones
John Garamendi
Scott H. Peters
André Curson
Nita M. Lowey
Peter J. Visclosky
David E. Price
Marcy Kaptur
Jose E. Serrano
James P. Moran
Chaka Fattah

Lucille Roybal-Alford
Lucille Roybal-Alford

Tom Cole
Tom Cole

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton

Al Green
Al Green

John F. Tierney
John F. Tierney

Bruce L. Braley
Bruce L. Braley

Peter Welch
Peter Welch

Carolyn B. Maloney
Carolyn B. Maloney

Albio Sires
Albio Sires

Alcee L. Hastings
Alcee L. Hastings

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen

Sanford D. Bishop
Sanford D. Bishop

Ed Pastor
Ed Pastor

Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis

George Miller
George Miller

Rubén Hinojosa
Rubén Hinojosa

Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush

Nick J. Rahall II
Nick J. Rahall II

Frank D. Lucas
Frank D. Lucas

Stephen F. Lynch
Stephen F. Lynch

Janice D. Schakowsky
Janice D. Schakowsky

Christopher H. Smith
Christopher H. Smith

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Gene Green

Gene Green

Emanuel Cleaver II

Emanuel Cleaver II

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.

John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

Paul Tonko

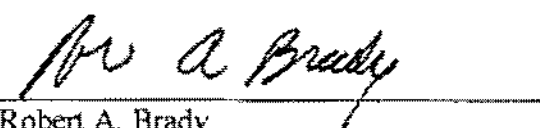
Paul Tonko

Elijah E. Cummings

Elijah E. Cummings



Steny H. Hoyer

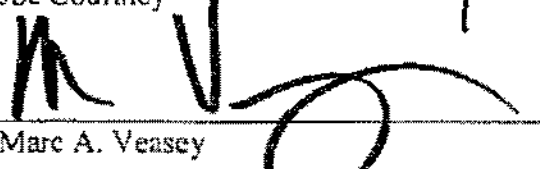

James R. Langevin

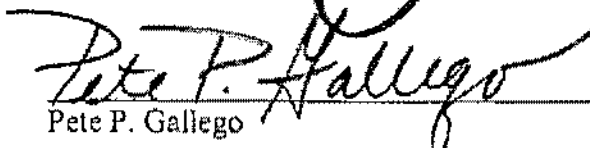

Robert A. Brady


Rick Larsen


Jackie Speier

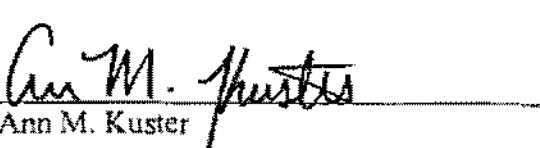

Joe Courtney


Marc A. Veasey



Pete P. Gallego


William L. Owens

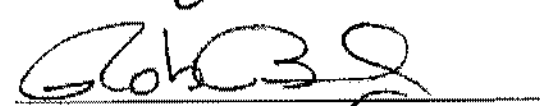

Lou Barletta


Ann M. Kuster

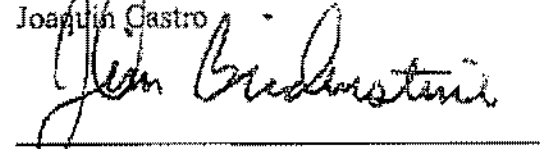

James Lankford

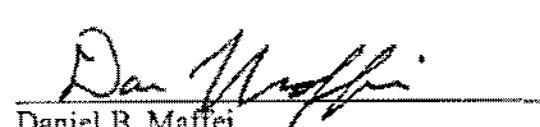

Mike Rogers (Alabama)


Tammy Duckworth


Rob Bishop



Joaquin Castro

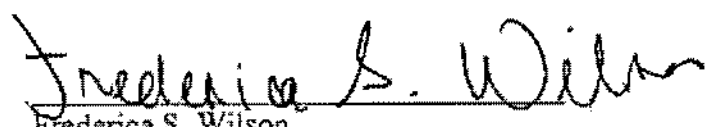

Jim Bridenstine

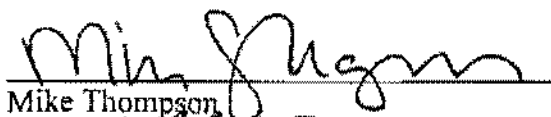

Daniel B. Maffei


Austin Scott

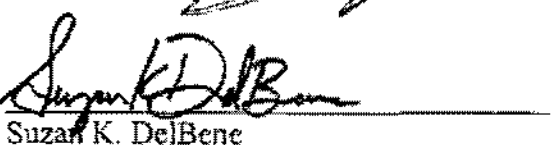

Frank R. Wolf

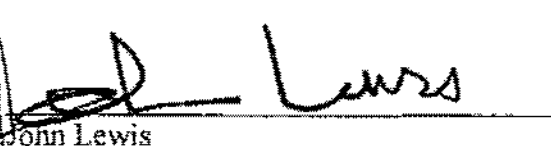

Blake Farenthold


Frederica S. Wilson

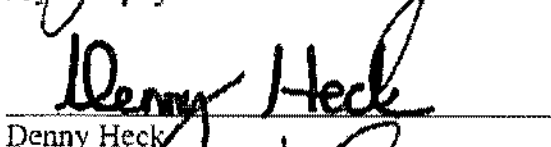

Mike Thompson

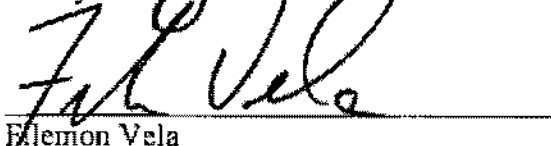

Michael F. Doyle


Suzan K. DelBene

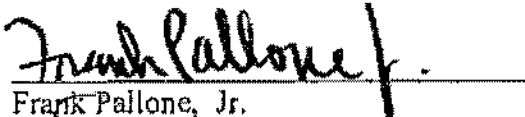

John Lewis

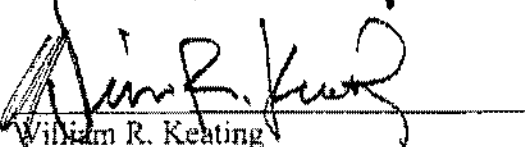

Joyce Beatty


Denny Heck

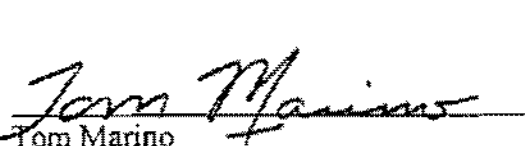

Filmon Vela



Tulsi Gabbard

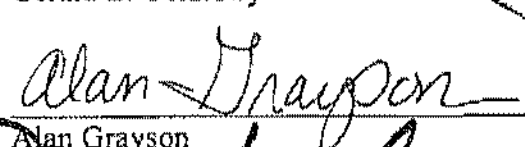

Frank Pallone, Jr.


William R. Keating

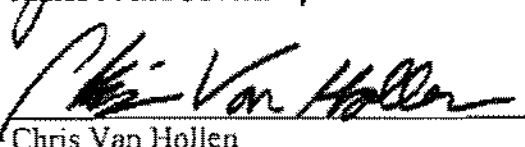

Richard L. Hanna


Tom Marino


Gerald E. Connolly



Alan Grayson



James P. McGovern



Chris Van Hollen



Susan A. Davis

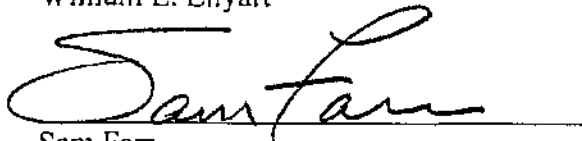

Ron Barber

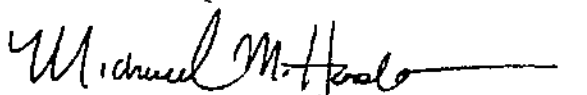

Jon Runyan


Derek Kilmer

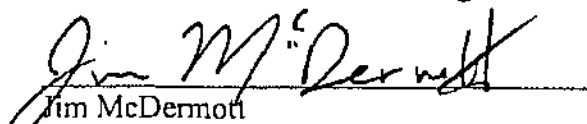

Carol Shea-Porter


William L. Enyart

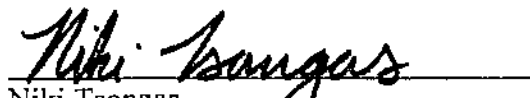

Sam Farr


Michael M. Honda

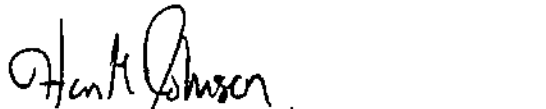

Julia Brownley

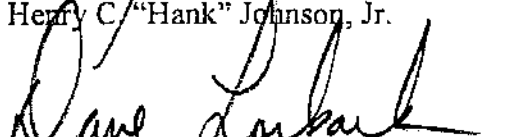

Jim McDermott



Markwayne Mullin


Niki Tsongas

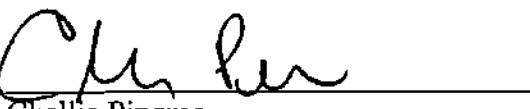

Tim Griffin



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



David Loebsack


Christopher P. Gibson

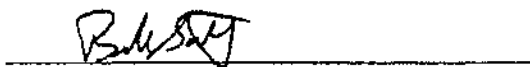

Tim Ryan


Chellie Pingree


Cheri Bustos


Timothy J. Walz


Earl Blumenauer


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

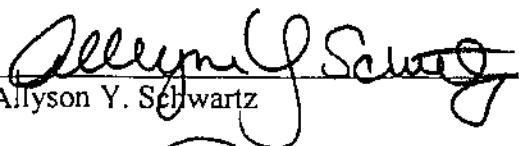
The Honorable Chuck Hagel

April 23, 2013

Page 8



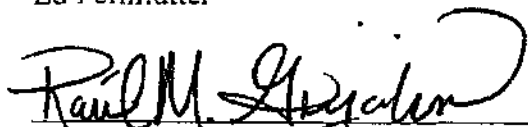
Rush Holt



Allyson Y. Schwartz



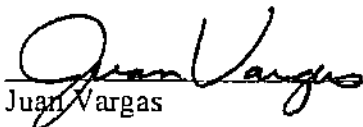
Ed Perlmuter



Raúl M. Grijalva



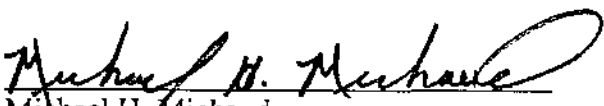
Sean Patrick Maloney



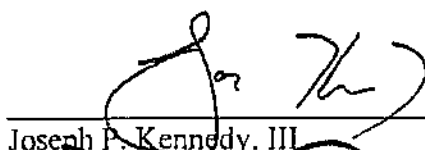
Juan Vargas



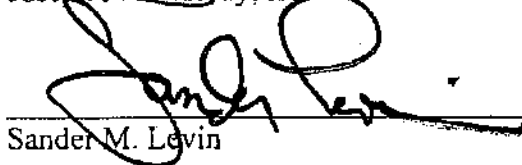
Betty McCollum



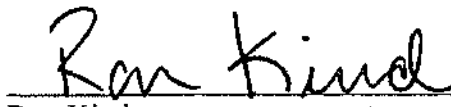
Michael H. Michaud



Joseph P. Kennedy, III



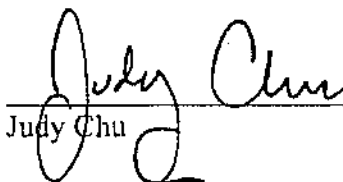
Sander M. Levin



Ron Kind



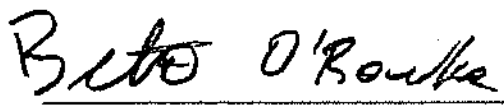
Matthew A. Cartwright



Judy Chu



Gary C. Peters



Beto O'Rourke

Cc: The Honorable Robert Hale, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2013

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Deputy Secretary of Defense
3000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter,

We write to express our concern with regard to recent reports suggesting the Air Force is considering reassigning the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) mission from the Air Combat Command (ACC) to the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). We believe that any such move would be unacceptable from both an operational and budgetary standpoint.

It took the Air Force over a decade to replace the venerable but aging HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters that have so admirably saved countless lives in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other difficult areas. Two failed acquisition attempts, protests, shifting requirements and disputes over mission ownership have cost the Air Force millions of taxpayer dollars and prevented the fleet from being recapitalized like it could have been years ago. Now, on the verge of a much needed contract award, it has come to our attention that the Air Force is considering shifting the mission from ACC to AFSOC.

From a budgetary perspective, this potential change is misguided. It would force the Air Force to move from a single type platform to multiple platforms. This would increase the complexity and cost from an acquisition, maintenance, and training perspective. In addition, the costs of acquiring, operating and maintaining additional AFSOC CV-22s is exponentially more than a similar or even reduced fleet of new HH-60G helicopters.

Operationally, this idea is even less sound. From 2003 to 2006 the Air Force did move the CSAR responsibilities to AFSOC and found it simply did not work. In 2006, the Air Force made clear that the mission's return to ACC "ensures the Air Force core competency of combat search and rescue is directly linked to the Combat Air Forces and the personnel they support, thus consolidating the management of limited Air Force resources." The Air Force added, "Under ACC, the CSAR assets can be mobilized faster during a national crisis, integrated into combat training, and tasked to support all [deployment] rotations."

In addition, a previously conducted analysis of platform alternatives to execute the CSAR mission dismissed the Osprey as unsuitable for the rescue missions due to its excessive downwash while hovering. Over the last ten years, study after study reaffirmed the need for Air Force combat rescue helicopters to perform this mission.



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The capability, skill, and dedication of AFSOC to perform its mission is unquestionable. However, it is clear that adding the CSAR mission to its already expansive portfolio could dilute its capability to perform either mission successfully. Rescuing downed pilots is a mission that former Air Force Chief of Staff Michael Moseley called a "moral imperative," and we should not be jeopardizing that duty.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge to you engage the Air Force on this matter and ensure that the Air Force Combat Search and Rescue mission remains a separate and dedicated mission within the Air Combat Command. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary,

In light of the recommendations of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), we ask you to reconsider the more than \$1.11 billion in sole-source contracts over the last three years for Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters, spare parts, and maintenance services awarded to Rosoboronexport. While we share the goal of providing the Afghan military with sustainable anti-narcotics and counterterrorism operations, the SIGAR has rightfully acknowledged that this program simply does not achieve this goal. Rather, it saddles the Afghan military with a fleet of helicopters they can neither operate nor afford to maintain and provides U.S. tax dollars to a Russian state-controlled arms export firm that is complicit in Assad's murder of innocent Syrians.

The inadvisable purchase of these Mi-17 helicopters is facilitated through an entity under the control of the Russian government, which as you are aware has demonstrated time and again that its interests are diametrically opposed to our national security. It is unconscionable to provide Russia with the recently announced \$550 million contract for 30 additional Mi-17 helicopters while Prime Minister Putin acknowledges sheltering the fugitive Edward Snowden at the Sheremetyevo airport.

The Russian state-controlled arms export firm Rosoboronexport continues to provide the Syrian government with the means to perpetrate widespread and systemic attacks on its own people. Rosoboronexport has committed to provide Syria with S-300 advanced anti-aircraft missiles that would protect the air dominance of the Assad regime and facilitate its continued attacks on the civilian population. Even in the face of crimes against humanity and the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government during the past year, enabled by the regular flow of weapons from Russia, the United States Government has unfortunately continued to procure from Rosoboronexport.

Section 1233 of S.1197, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, prohibits the use of funds to enter contracts with Rosoboronexport. As we work together to enact this provision into law, we call to your attention that the fact that you currently have the authority to end this contract with Rosoboronexport. Not only does it fail to meet the requirements of the Afghan military, but it also provides U.S. taxpayers' dollars to the Russian government as it shelters a fugitive from justice and undermines U.S. policy on Syria.

More than a year has passed since we wrote to your predecessor expressing our concern regarding the Department of Defense's dealings with Rosoboronexport. This is a serious policy

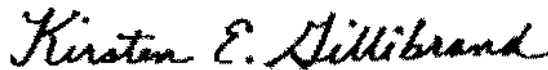


problem, and we ask for your personal attention to help solve it. Thank you for your service to our nation and your dedication to the members of our Armed Forces.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
United States Senate



JOHN CORRYN
United States Senate



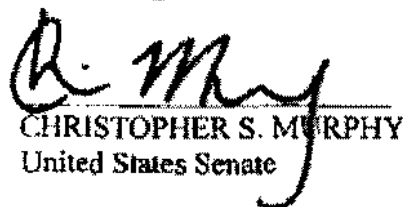
KELLY AYOTTE
United States Senate



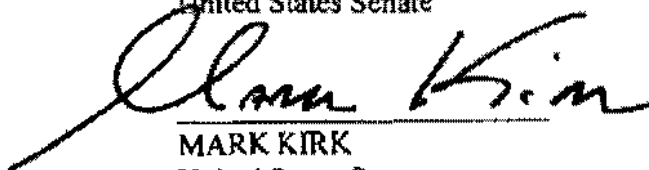
ROGER F. WICKER
United States Senate



MARK BEGICH
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



MARK KIRK
United States Senate



BEN CARDIN
United States Senate

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We strongly oppose the Department of Defense's (DoD) recently signed contract with the Russian state arms dealer Rosoboronexport to supply 30 additional Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The signing of the contract blatantly ignores the intent of Congress which was reaffirmed with the bipartisan vote by the House of Representatives, 423-0, seeking to end DoD's business relationship with Rosoboronexport. It also appears ill advised in light of a recent Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) report critical of the purchase.

As you know, Russia serves as the main arms supplier to Syria providing weapons the regime is using to fuel a tragic war in that country that has thus far claimed at least 93,000 lives. Even as Rosoboronexport was providing weapons to the Syrian regime last year, DoD entered into no-bid contracts to purchase Mi-17 helicopters for the ANSF from the firm.

In response, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112-239) and the 2013 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-6) prohibiting 2013 funds from being used to enter into contracts with Rosoboronexport. The Department of Defense is maneuvering around the law and using Fiscal Year 2012 Afghanistan Security Forces Funds to enter into this new contract.

That is why the House of Representatives passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 to strengthen the prohibition on DoD contracts with Rosoboronexport. The amendment granted you a national security waiver allowing you to purchase equipment from the Russian arms dealer so long as you submit a report to Congress 30 days prior to any such purchase.

That report requires you to provide Congress with information that we now respectfully request you provide by responding with the following:

1. An explanation of why it is in the national security interest of the United States to purchase equipment from Rosoboronexport;



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2. An explanation why comparable equipment cannot be purchased from another corporation;
3. An assessment of the cooperation of Rosoboronexport with the Defense Contract Audit Agency;
4. An assessment of whether and how many S-300 advanced anti-aircraft missiles have been delivered to the Assad regime by Rosoboronexport; and
5. A list of the contracts that Rosoboronexport has signed with the Assad regime since January 1, 2013.

In addition, the SIGAR report, *Afghan Special Mission Wing: DOD Plans to Spend \$908 Million to Build Air Wing that the Afghans Cannot Operate and Maintain*, questions "the wisdom of moving ahead with the provision of 30 new Mi-17s." The report notes that DoD's massive \$908 million financial investment, including the Mi-17 purchases, in the Afghan Specialty Mission Wing (SMW) is moving forward even though the Afghans have not yet agreed to NATO's concept for reorganization within the Afghan government to support the SMW and even with a lack of planning to transfer critical maintenance and logistics functions to the Afghans. Accordingly, we also respectfully request that you provide justification for procuring 30 additional Mi-17 helicopters despite the inability of the SMW to use them.


We firmly believe that DoD should not purchase helicopters or any other equipment from Russia as it continues to arm Assad's regime. Moreover, it is unconscionable that American taxpayers are subsidizing a company that is complicit in atrocities occurring in Syria.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,


ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

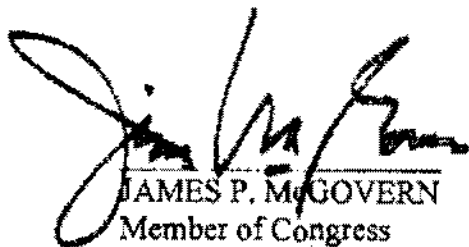

KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress

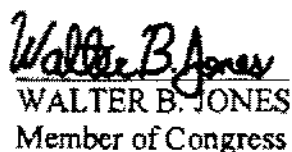

JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress

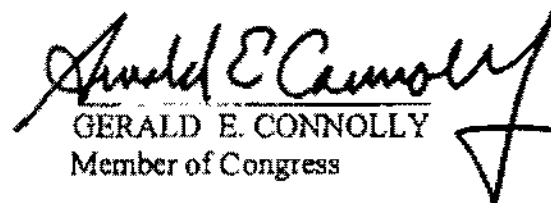

JACK KINGSTON
Member of Congress


KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress


FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress


WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress


MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress


PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress

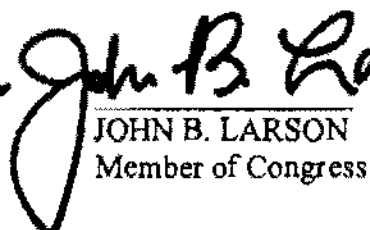

JIM BRIDENSTINE
Member of Congress

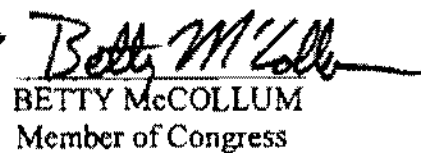

RON RYAN
Member of Congress



TIM RYAN
Member of Congress


MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Member of Congress


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress


BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress


ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress

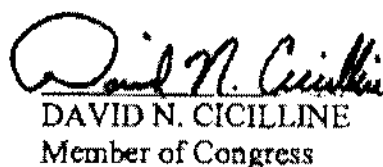

TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress

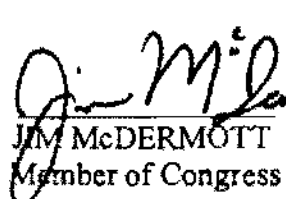

MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS, Jr
Member of Congress

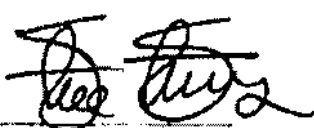

HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress


KENNY MARCHANT
Member of Congress


DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress


JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress


MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress

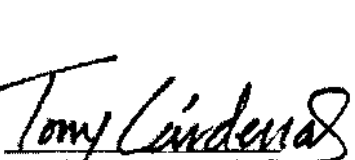

STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress

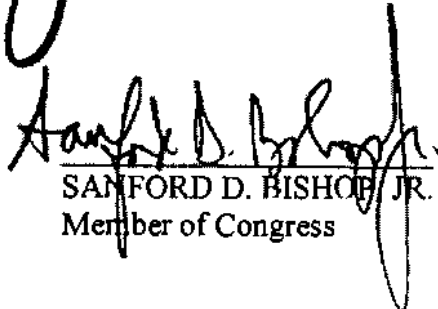

RAUL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress


TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



SANFORD D. BISHOP JR.
Member of Congress



TIM GRIFFIN
Member of Congress



TOM COLE
Member of Congress


WILLIAM L. OWENS
Member of Congress

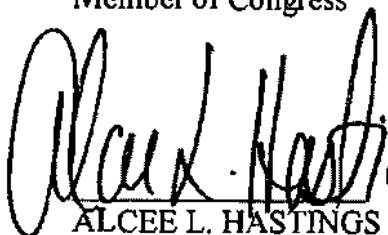

TED POE
Member of Congress

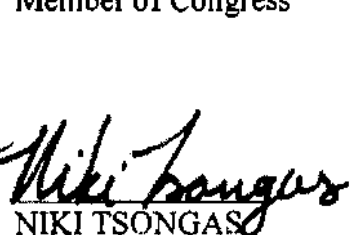

BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

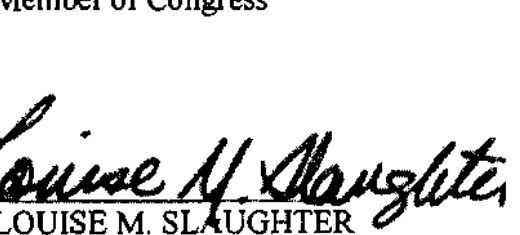

GARY C. PETERS
Member of Congress

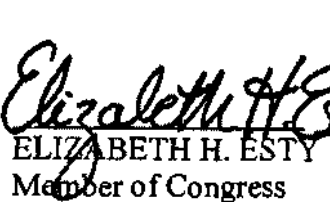

WILLIAM L. ENYART
Member of Congress


AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress


NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress

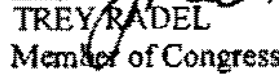

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress


ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress

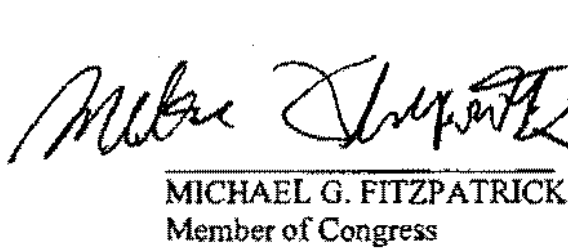

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

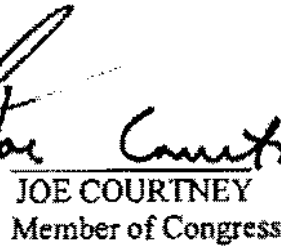

RANDY K. WEBER, Sr.
Member of Congress

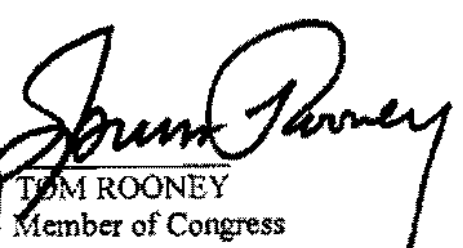

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

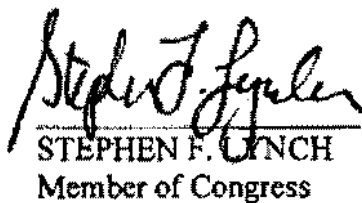

TREY RADEL
Member of Congress

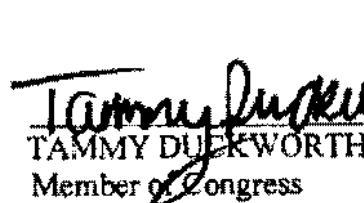

STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress


MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

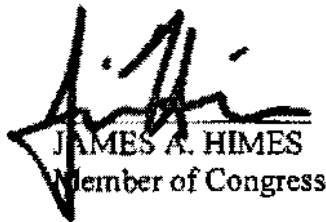

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress


TOM ROONEY
Member of Congress


STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress


TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Member of Congress


ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress


JAMES A. HIMES
Member of Congress

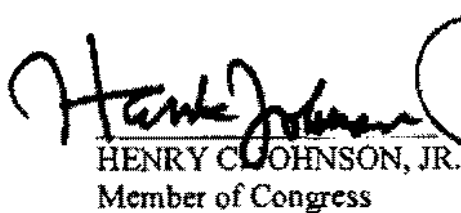

DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress



ANN McLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress


JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress


MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

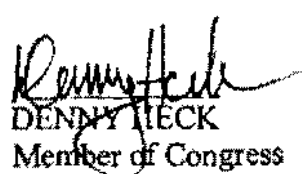

MARTHA ROBY
Member of Congress


HENRY C. JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress


DENNY HECK
Member of Congress

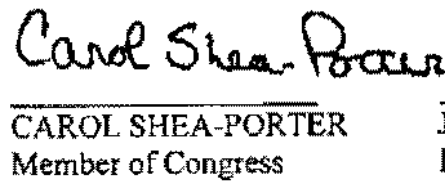

ALAN GRAYSON
Member of Congress

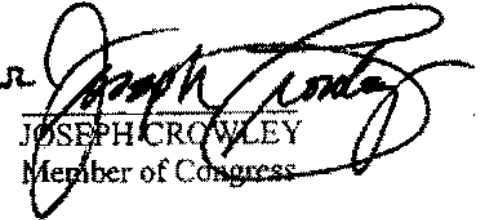

JOE GARCIA
Member of Congress

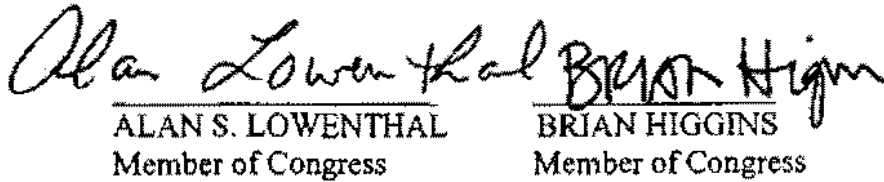

COLLEEN W. HANABUSA
Member of Congress

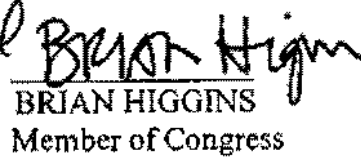

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress


BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

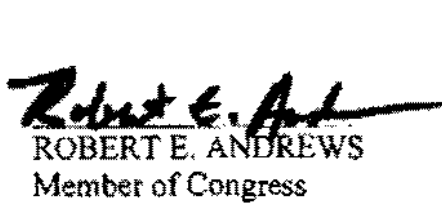

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress


JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress


BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress


DANIEL B. MAFFEI
Member of Congress


ROBERT E. ANDREWS
Member of Congress


ANDRE CARSON
Member of Congress


KAREN BASS
Member of Congress


KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress


RON BARBER
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Charles Timothy Hagel
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Re: Limitations on Terms of Consumer Credit Extended to Service Members and Dependents
(Docket ID: DoD-2013-OS-0133)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The undersigned members of Congress are writing to express our concern about the current definition of consumer credit, and the opportunity the Department of Defense has to ensure that Service Members are protected from predatory payday loans, vehicle title loans, and refund anticipation loans in their proposed Rulemaking addressing "Limitations on Terms of Consumer Credit Extended to Service Members and Dependents."

All too often, our Service Members have been targeted by high-cost credit providers. The resulting inappropriate loans and exorbitant interest payments force many members of the military and their families to forgo other necessities, such as housing or grocery bills, and in many cases, to take out additional loans. This exacerbation of their financial condition negatively affects their morale and puts their ability to do their job – which is defending our great nation – at risk.

As you know, Congress passed the Military Lending Act in 2007 to directly address some of these concerns. Amongst other important protections, the Act limits the interest rate lenders are permitted to charge active duty Service Members and their dependents to 36 percent annually and prohibits securing loans with a post-dated check or electronic access to a bank account. However, as currently implemented, these protections apply to three narrowly defined types of products: closed-end payday loans of \$2,000 or less and repayable in 91 days or less; closed-end vehicle title loans repayable in 181 days or less; and close-end tax refund anticipation loans. Eleven states do not have laws that extend additional protections for all forms of payday lending, and thirteen states do not extend protections to all forms of vehicle title lending. Over half of all active duty Service Members are stationed in these states.

We strongly urge the Department of Defense to take advantage of the current opportunity you all have to expand this narrow definition of consumer credit. A broader definition that applies to the following would be key to protecting our Service Members in the spirit the Military Lending Act intended.



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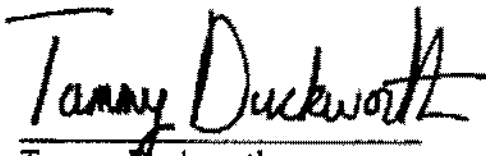
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- Payday loans for amounts larger than \$2,000 or with a loan term longer than 91 days,
- Vehicle title loans with terms longer than 181 day
- Loans structured as open-end credit

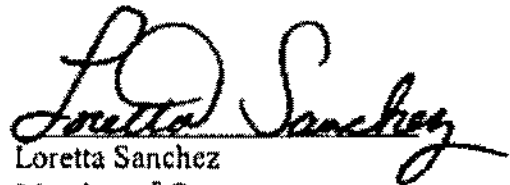
Please modify the definition of consumer credit to ensure that Service Members in all states are protected from all forms of high-cost credit, regardless of the duration or structure of the loan. An inclusive definition of consumer credit will ensure that all Service Members are covered by the consumer protections envisioned by Congress in 2007, and preserve our force's readiness and military strength.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,




Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



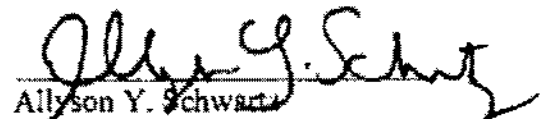
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



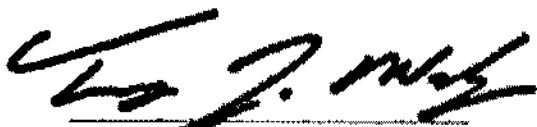
Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



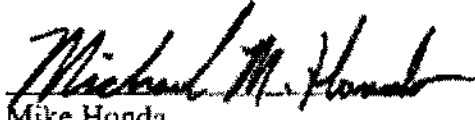
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



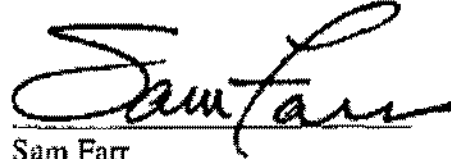
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



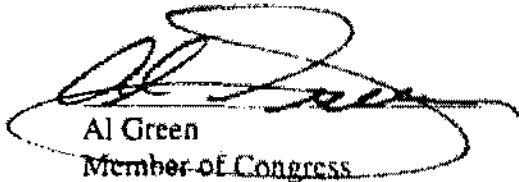
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



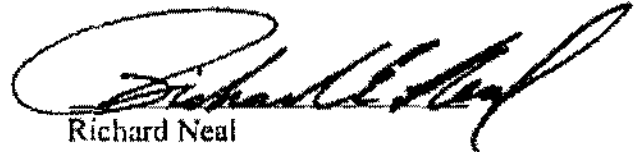
Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



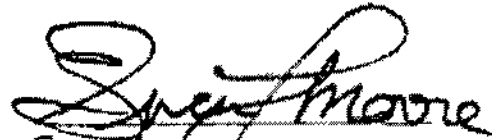
Al Green
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress



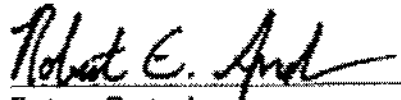
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



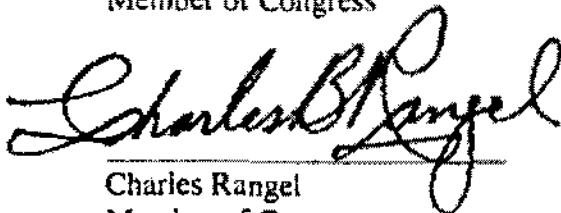
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



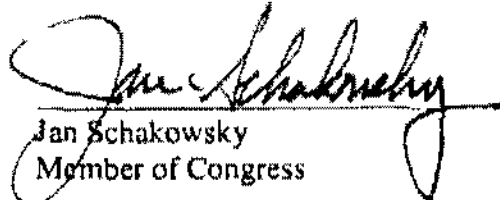
Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



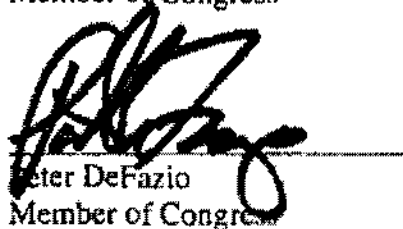
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



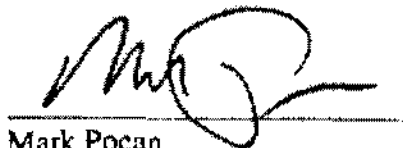
Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



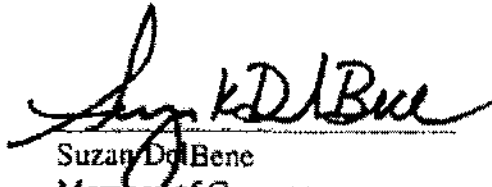
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



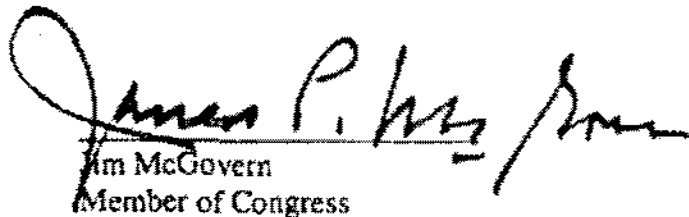
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



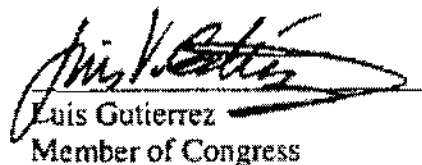
Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Luis Guterres
Member of Congress



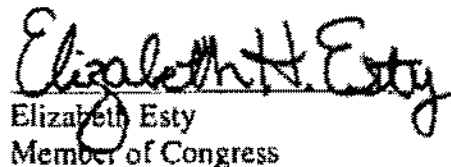
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



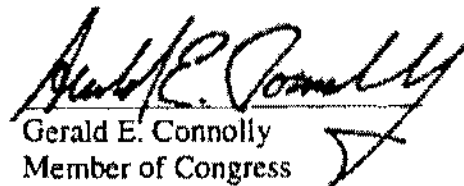
Brad Schneider
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress




Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



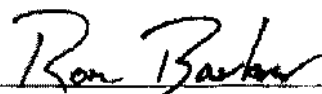
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



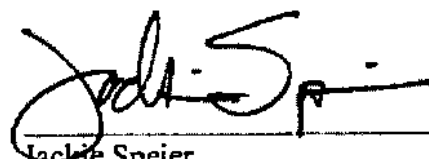
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



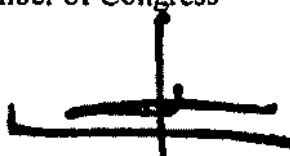
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



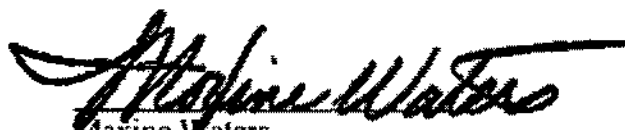
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

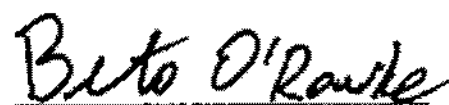


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 12, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

The Honorable Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-0101

Dear Secretary Hagel and Secretary James:

We are writing to urge you to continue to support the Air Force's Combat Rescue Helicopter (CRH) program in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 and Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). As you are well aware, the CRH program is intended to replace the aging HH-60 Pave Hawk Helicopter with the latest technology in order to better meet the highly critical mission requirement of combat search and rescue. The Air Force's combat search and rescue teams are essential assets in the military, having saved thousands of lives —over the last decade.

In the Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations Bill, Congress continued funding for the CRH and specifically "direct[ed] that the funds provided shall be considered a congressional special interest item." Furthermore, Congress established a very high threshold for any potential changes to the program requiring that:

"Prior to any decision to terminate the CRH program due to insufficient funding in future years, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force are directed to review the threshold and objective requirements as established in the capability development document and to review alternative acquisition strategies using cost-benefit analysis in order to establish an affordable program. The Secretary of the Air Force is directed to brief the outcome of this review to the congressional defense committees."

We believe that during this period of fiscal austerity the CRH program will continue to be affordable as the Air Force controls costs and the program remains on track to deliver these indispensable helicopters to the fleet. We respectfully ask that the Department of Defense continue to fully fund the Combat Rescue Helicopter in the Future Years Defense Program.




OSD001526-14

The U.S. Soldier's Creed states that "I will never leave a fallen comrade," and we owe the men and women of our military the very best equipment to rescue those in harm's way.

Please keep our offices updated about any developments and include us in any briefings to the congressional defense committees related to the CRH program. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator




RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



MARK BEGICH
United States Senator



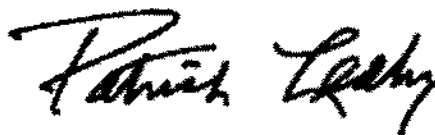
LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator



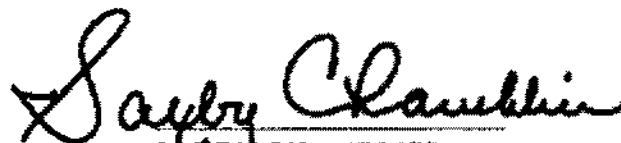
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



PATRICK J. LEAHY
United States Senator



SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Hagel:

We are writing on behalf of our constituents, the relatives of 21 men who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and all Americans. These families have sought our assistance in the effort to have the bodies of their loved ones exhumed so they can receive a proper burial in their community or be buried in a marked grave in Hawaii.

All 21 men were killed, along with 408 other sailors, when the *U.S.S. Oklahoma* was torpedoed during the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1943, when the *Oklahoma* was salvaged and raised, the remains of the sailors classified as "unknown" were buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. For nearly 70 years, the family members of these men never knew the final resting place of their loved ones.

In 2003, using military records and personnel files, a historian for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association named Ray Emory ascertained the identities of 27 men killed on the *Oklahoma* previously listed as "unknown." After Mr. Emory's research was shared with the Department of Defense, scientists from the Central Identification Laboratory of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) exhumed the coffin from grave P-1002 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Between 2003 and 2008, with the help of Mr. Emory's research and the families of the five men buried at P-1002, JPAC correctly identified all five men in the coffin (Lawrence A. Boxrucker, Eldon P. Wyman, Irvin A.R. Thompson, Charles H. Swanson, and Gerald G. Lehman), and their remains were returned to their respective families for burial.

Once Mr. Emory's research was validated by the correct identification of the men buried in P-1002, he enlisted the help of Bob Valley from USS *Oklahoma* Family, Inc. to track down the next of kin for the remaining 22 men. Mr. Valley was able to find contact information for 21 of the 22 men and alerted them of Mr. Emory's work. Since then, they have lobbied various government agencies for the return of their loved one.



OSD002248-14

According to Mr. Emory's research, these 22 men are buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in five caskets in three graves: P-1001, P-1003, and P-0989.

It is our understanding that the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory has applied for permission to recover and identify the remains buried in the remaining "unknown" caskets.

We respectfully ask that the Department of Defense grant the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory's request to exhume the five "unknown" caskets and identify the remains. The brave men who died protecting our great nation at Pearl Harbor deserve a final resting place of their families' choosing. We request that their remains be released to their family so that they may be interred according to their wishes.

Please keep our offices updated about any developments in this matter. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

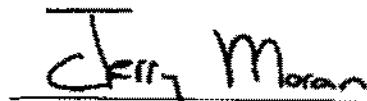
Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senator



KELLY A. AYOTTE
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



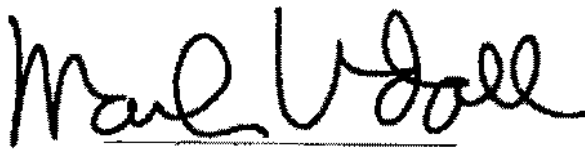
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



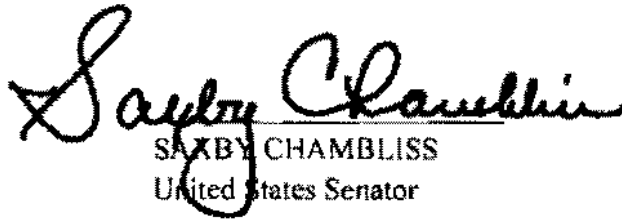
RON JOHNSON
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator



MARK UDALL
United States Senator



SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator



ROB PORTMAN
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



MARK S. KIRK
United States Senator



LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator



THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army
The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2014

The Honorable Charles Hagel
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hagel:

We respectfully request that the United States Armed Forces modernize their appearance regulations so that patriotic Sikh Americans can serve the country they love while abiding by their articles of faith.

As you know, three devout Sikh Americans have been granted individualized accommodations to serve in the U.S. Army. These patriotic soldiers wear turbans and maintain beards in a neat and conservative manner, both in accordance with operational requirements and their Sikh religious beliefs. They are also able to wear protective equipment, including helmets and gas masks, in conformity with safety requirements.

These Sikh soldiers have given their all in service of their country. Maj. Kamaljeet Singh Kalsi earned a Bronze Star Medal for his service in Afghanistan, which included treating multiple combat injuries and reviving two clinically dead patients back to life; Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan earned a NATO Medal for his service in Afghanistan; and Corporal Simran Preet Singh Lamba successfully graduated from the Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) program for his proficiency in Punjabi and Hindi.

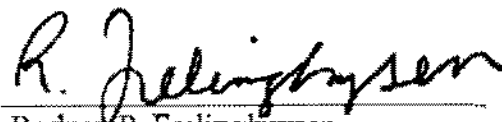
Given the achievements of these soldiers and their demonstrated ability to comply with operational requirements while practicing their faith, we believe it is time for our military to make inclusion of practicing Sikh Americans the rule, not the exception.

Devout Sikhs have served in the U.S. Army since World War I, and they are presumptively permitted to serve in the armed forces of Canada, India, and the United Kingdom, among others. Notably, the current Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army is a turbaned and bearded Sikh, even though Sikhs constitute less than two percent of India's population. Throughout the world, and now in the U.S. Army, Sikh soldiers are clearly able to maintain their religious commitments while serving capably and honorably.

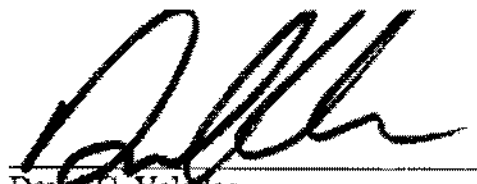
We look forward to working with you to end the presumptive ban on Sikh Americans in the U.S. military and extend opportunity to Sikh Americans who wish to serve and defend our nation.

Sincerely,

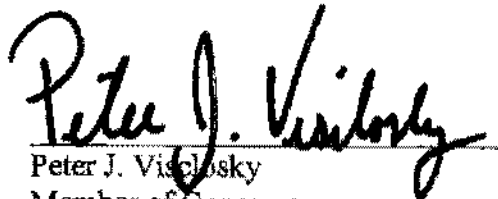

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress

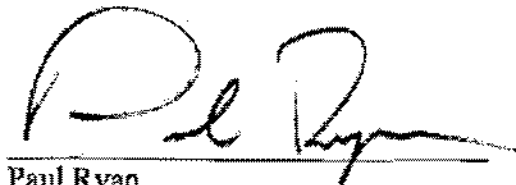




David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

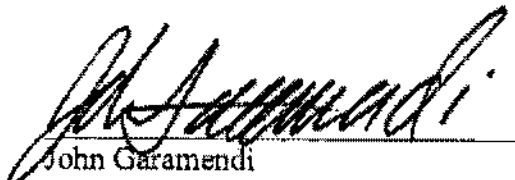

Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress


Joseph J. Heck
Member of Congress

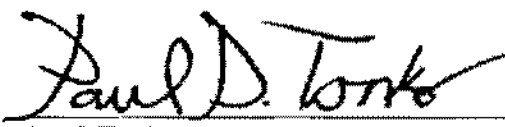

Paul Ryan
Member of Congress

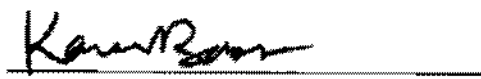

Jim Costa
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Kerry L. Bentivolio
Member of Congress


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



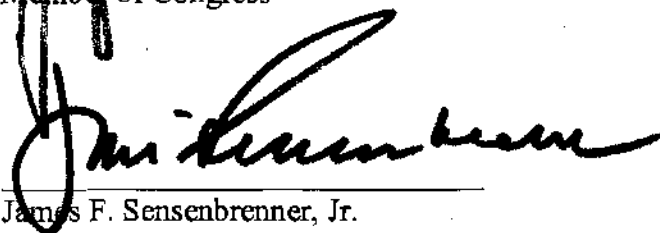
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jeff Labanham
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



James F. Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



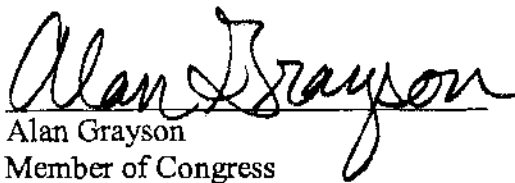
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



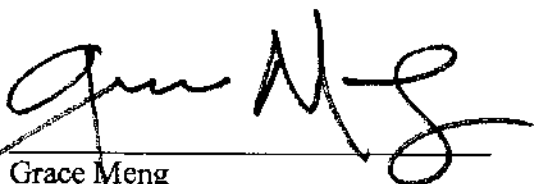
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



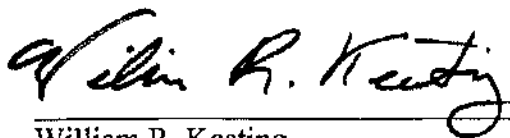
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



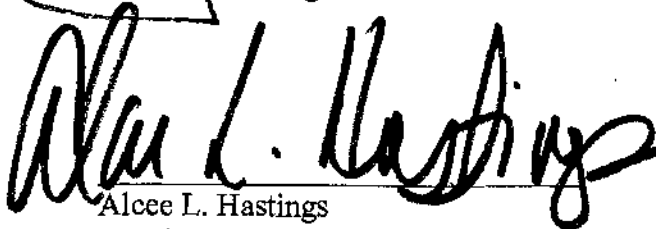
Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



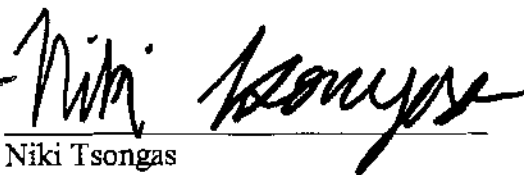
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



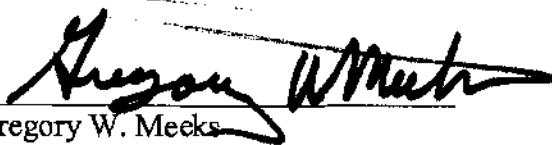
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

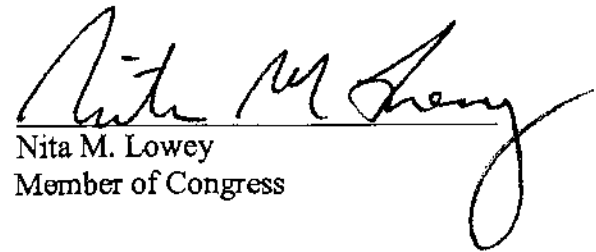



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress




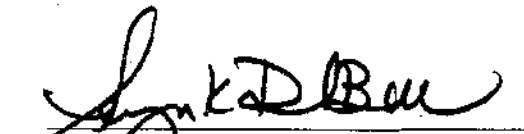
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

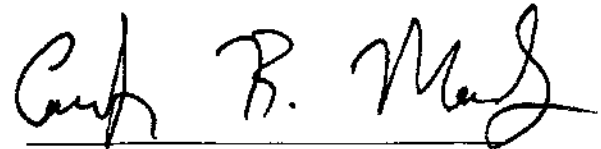

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

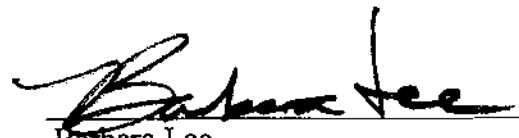

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

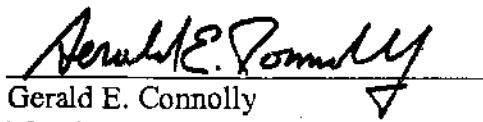

Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

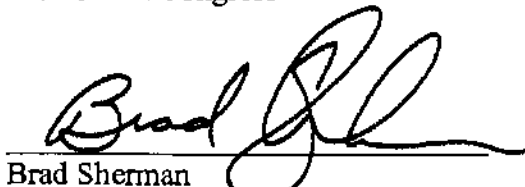

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

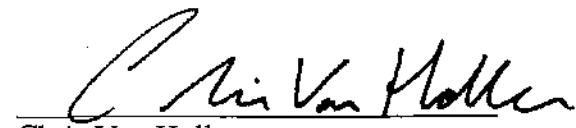

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

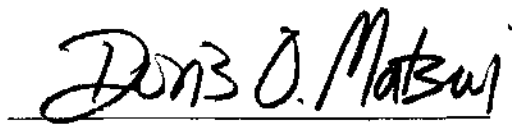

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

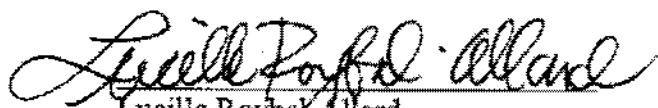

Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

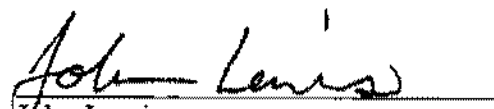

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

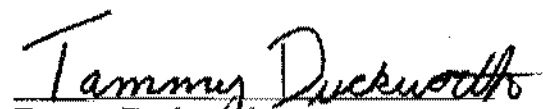

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

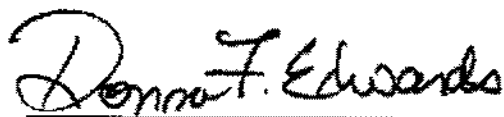

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

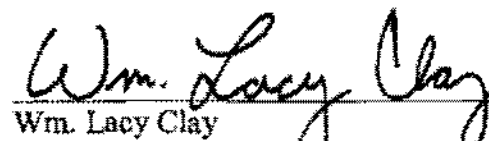

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

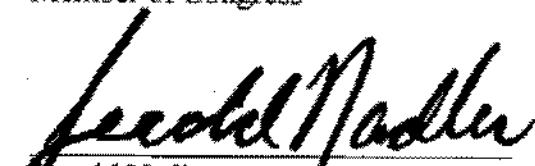

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

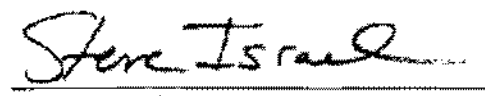

John Lewis
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

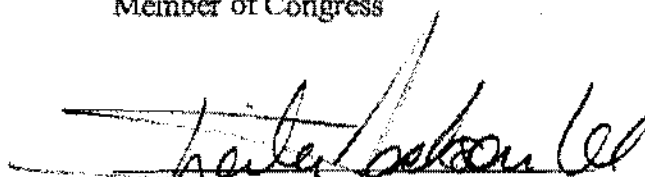

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

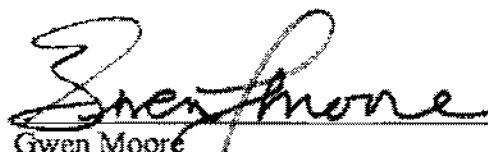

Errol Nadler
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress

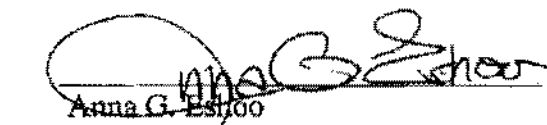

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Anna G. Escobar
Member of Congress


Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

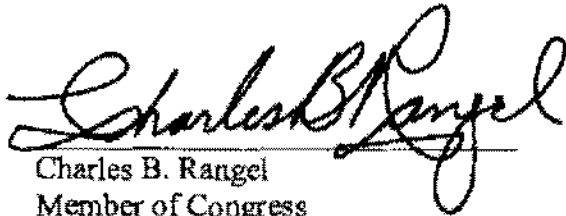

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



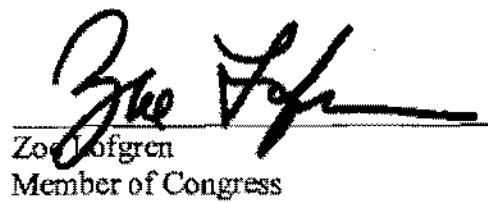
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



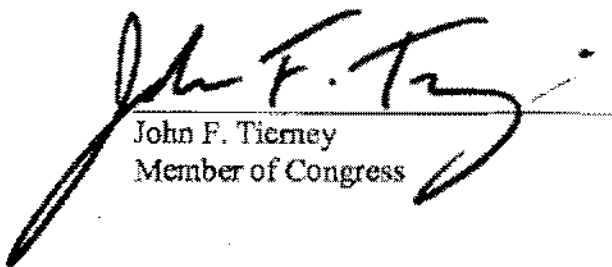
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



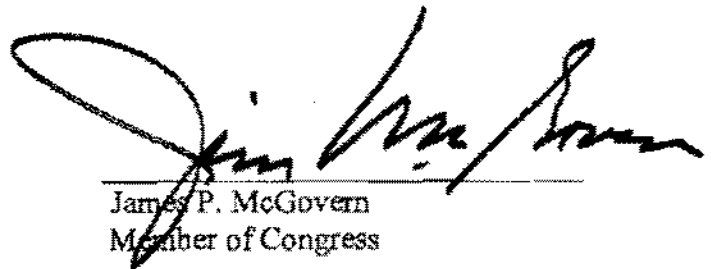
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



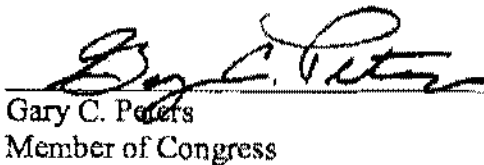
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



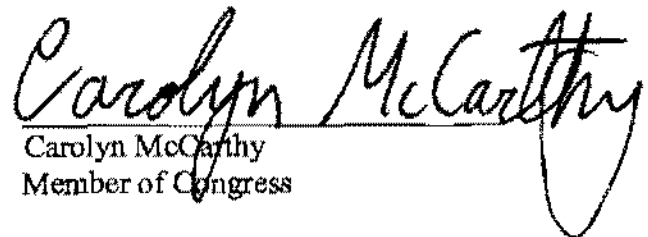
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



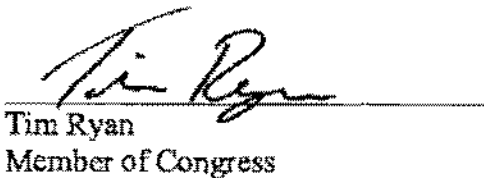
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



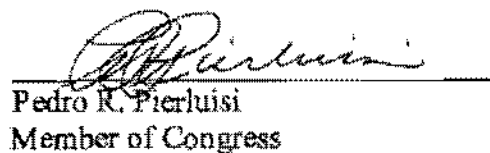
Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



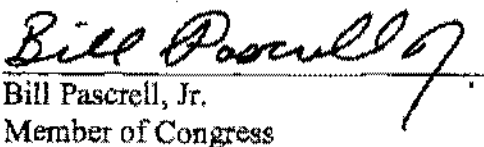
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



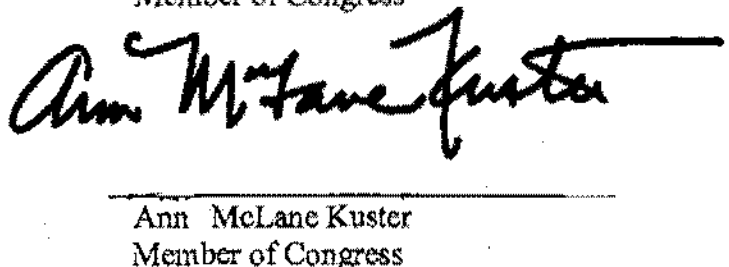
William L. Owens
Member of Congress



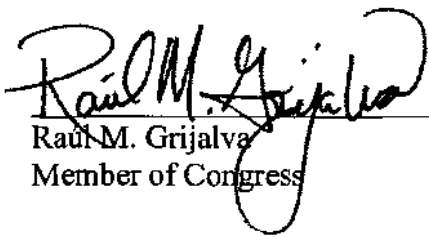
Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

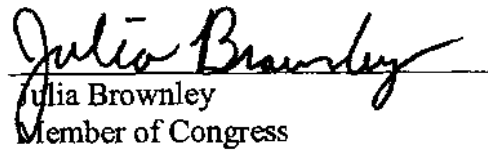


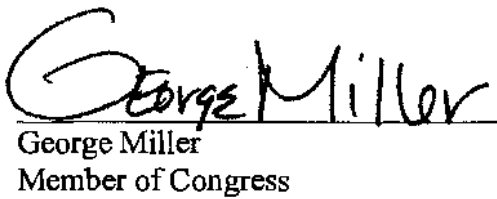
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



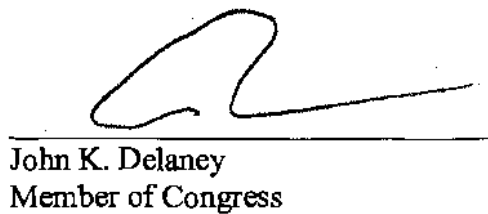
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

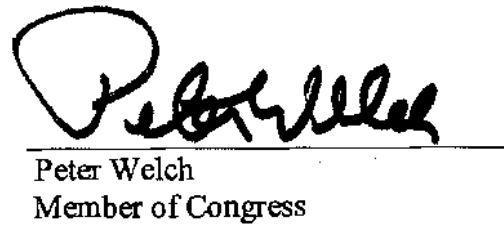

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

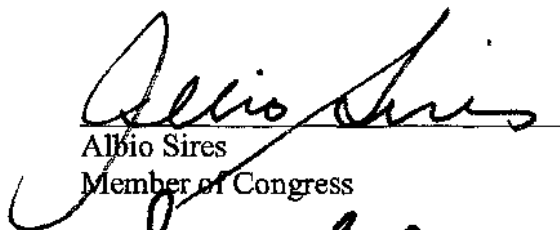

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress

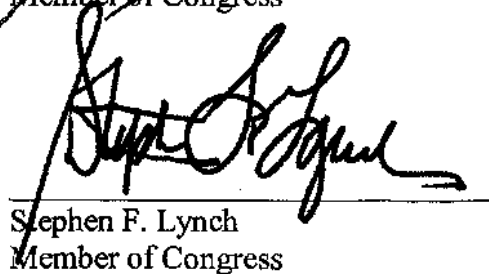

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

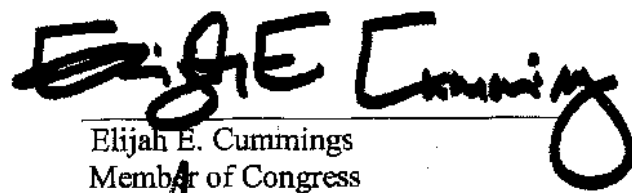

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

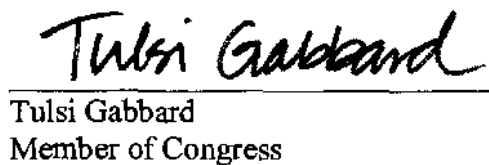

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

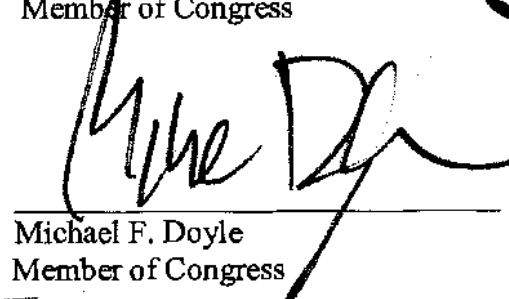

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

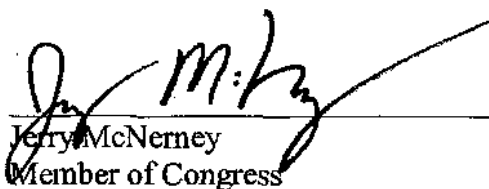

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

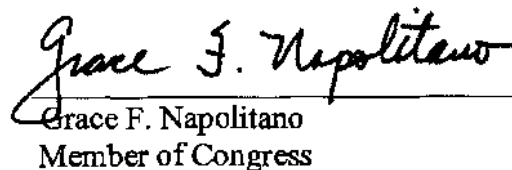

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

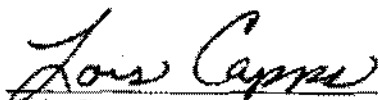

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



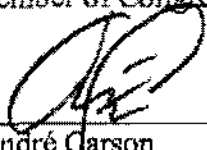
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



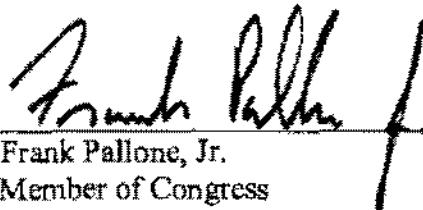
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



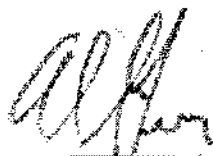
Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



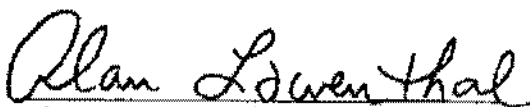
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



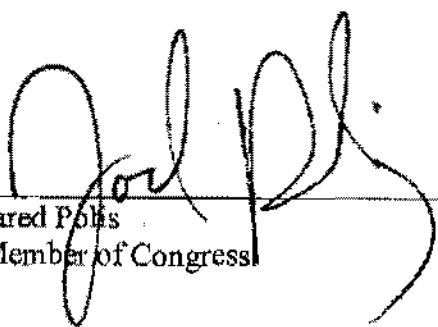
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



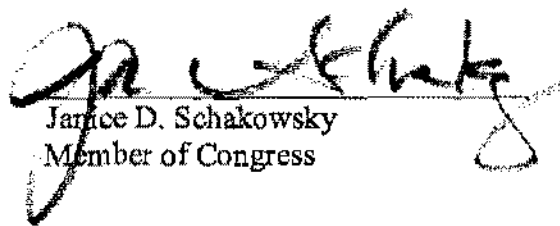
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



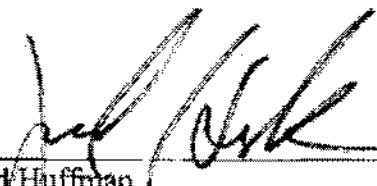
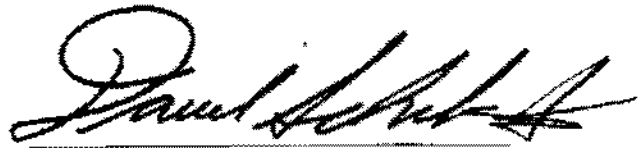

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
David Schweikert
Member of Congress
Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

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

March 19, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We write once again to express our continued concern with the Department of Defense's (DoD) contracts with the Russian state-arms exporter Rosoboronexport. Given Russia's recent actions that violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including its support of the illegal referendum for Crimean separation, we strongly urge you to terminate these contracts.

As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (P.L. 113-66) prohibits DoD from entering into a contract or other business agreement with Rosoboronexport. In addition, your Department announced last year it canceled plans to purchase 15 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces. These actions were taken namely in response to strong bipartisan opposition in Congress and elsewhere to DoD entering into contracts with an arms dealer that is the main supplier of the weapons the regime of Bashar al-Assad is using to fuel the ongoing war and commit mass atrocities in Syria.

While we are pleased to see that future business with Rosoboronexport is terminated, we firmly believe that given Russia's recent escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, current contracts with the Russian arms dealer must be terminated as well. Earlier this week, President Obama expanded Executive Order 13660 to impose sanctions on "persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State: to operate in the arms or related materiel sector in the Russian Federation," which, along with DoD's authority to exercise termination of convenience clauses in its contracts when doing so is in the Federal government's interest, should allow you to terminate DoD's current contracts with Rosoboronexport.

As noted by President Obama in his Executive Order, Russia's recent actions "undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." We agree and accordingly strongly urge you to cancel contracts with Rosoboronexport for the delivery of Mi-17s to the Afghan National Security Forces, for supplying spare parts or for the sustained maintenance of these helicopters.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter.



OSD002836-14

Sincerely,



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary of State
The Honorable Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury