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Originator: MOC YOUNG, T
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COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

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

April 27, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta,

The last decade of war has demonstrated that the United States military superiority is a combination of brave, selfless warfighters and superior American made hardware. As we prepare for the recently announced strategic posture shift, I respectfully implore the DoD to ensure that the critical industrial base that enables our nation's military superiority remains intact.

The American warfighter is the best trained and equipped soldier to ever walk the face of the earth. The tools of a soldier come from the hard labor of the American worker and unique industries that define our nation and our military. Regrettably, because we were not ready, the pre-9/11 warfighter initially rode on and carried into battle outdated and insufficient tools. Whether we are fielding more advance body armor, tanks, or even aircraft carriers, our service members need to continue to receive the necessary tools to accomplish the continuing and future missions.

With our new military posture and shifting resources, it is important to remember both the warfighter and the industry that supports him. Our warfighters need to retain critical capabilities to defend our interests, whenever and wherever they may be. If we drastically cut our equipment and the corresponding industrial base, we disadvantage our future service members. Make no mistake, like you, I believe it is nonsensical to build equipment we do not need. However, as a member of the Armed Services and Budget Committees, I have yet to receive a satisfactory explanation demonstrating how the DoD requests are tied to a real strategy. We should not begin at a budget figure and spend accordingly, we should instead define a mission and arrive at a figure.

In the coming months, it is my sincere hope that the DoD reassesses its budget priorities which may unduly harm the critical industrial base needed to support our nation's warfighters.

In service,


Todd C. Young



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