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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6348
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

December 27, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to authorize Congressman Jerry Weller (IL), to accompany the Ballenger CODEL on official business to Nicaragua, Colombia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Bolivia during the approximate time period of January 9 to January 17, 2002.

The purpose of this trip is to meet with local, regional and national officials about trade issues pertaining to each individual country, which falls directly under the Committee's jurisdiction. In addition, the visit will allow Congressman Weller to learn more about labor and economic issues affecting these countries.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense, specifically the United States Air Force, could furnish such assistance as is necessary, including military aircraft and transportation to facilitate the success of this mission. The expenditure of funds for the payment of actual and necessary expenses and such transportation as may be required is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1108 (g).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,


Bill Thomas
Chairman

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