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February 14, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to request authorization to allow Congressman Mark Souder to lead a Congressional delegation (Codel) to Colombia from February 22- 26, 2006. The purpose of the travel is to conduct oversight regarding U.S. support for Colombian counternarcotics matters with respect to ongoing negotiations with a U.S.-Colombia Free I rade Agreement. Additional Members of Congress will be invited to attend. Please authorize Marc Wheat, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, and James Kaiser, Counsel for the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice to attend.

It would be appreciated if the Department of Defense could furnish such assistance as necessary, including transportation to facilitate this trip. The expenditure of funds for payment of the actual expenses and transportation is authorized by Title 31 U.S. C. 1108(g). Travel will be conducted by military and/or commercial air, and non-US air carriers as necessary.

If military aircraft is not available, we request commercial transportation where appropriate. In this regard, request airfare for the international portions of this trip be authorized up to business class, and if necessary authorization to fly on non-U.S. carrier aircraft. Please contact Allyson Blandford at 225-5074 if there are any questions. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely.

Tom Davis Chairman

Mark Wheat - POC

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