

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

29 September 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman & Ranking Member:

Recently Secretary Gates announced broad plans to reduce costs in the Department of Defense and re-appropriate those savings throughout the Department. As part of this plan, the Secretary announced three longer term projects and eight initiatives that he plans to begin implementing immediately. These eight initiatives have the ability to affect the Department, its ability to effectively fulfill its mission, and the security of the nation.

A decision of this magnitude should not be made without careful reflection, supported by rigorous analysis. We have been told by the Department that the Secretary had several meetings and reviewed these decisions carefully. However, it seems clear that this decision did not carefully consider the national defense implications of such a change, nor is the decision substantiated with any sort of calculation of the direct and indirect costs to our national defense structure. In addition, no information has been provided by the Department to demonstrate *any* level of analysis, either financial or strategic, to determine what risks are being introduced into our national security strategy and how we are to mitigate these new risks.

During a briefing to the HASC on August 10, 2010 the Department was asked to provide data collected and ensuing analysis supporting the recommendations announced by the Secretary on August 9, 2010. Almost immediately following this briefing a congressional letter was sent from several member of the HASC in search of this

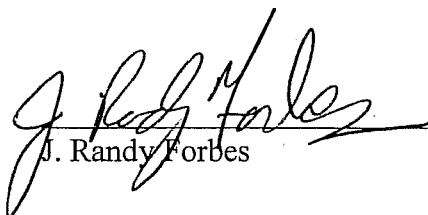
analysis. To date, we have not received this information. Ranking Member McKeon, Mr. Wittman and Mr. Forbes repeated this request to the Department in a August 31, 2010 letter.

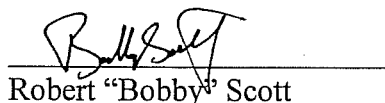
We request that you require Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to serve as an expert witness before this Committee prior to any further implementation of his announced initiatives in order to provide the Committee all information needed to assess, understand, and provide oversight as required by law. If the request is refused, we ask that you immediately utilize all means available to compel him to appear to testify before this Committee.

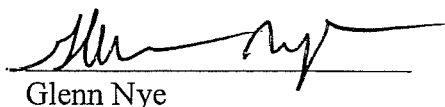
Additionally, it is vital that the members of the committee are afforded the opportunity to thoroughly review all data, analysis, and other documentation supporting the Secretary's initiatives and related decisions. As this information has been requested by the Committee on August 10, by members of the Committee on August 31, and again by Committee staff during the intervening period between August 10 and today, and that the Department has either refused to respond or provided incomplete information, we request that the Committee subpoena the Department, compelling them to provide the analysis and information collected prior to August 9 upon which these decisions are being made..

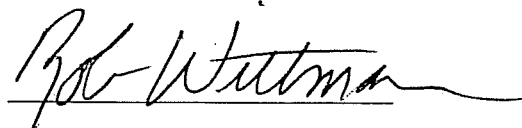
Thank you for understanding the need to proceed in a deliberate, thoughtful and fully transparent manner.

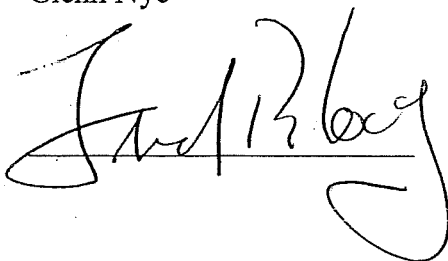
Sincerely,

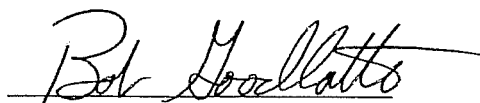

J. Randy Forbes


Robert "Bobby" Scott


Glenn Nye


Rob Wittman


Fred Roberg


Bob Goodlatte

Ben Wilson

Frank L. Burdick

Wm. H. H. H.

Frank R. B. B.

Bob B.

Frank J. B.

John Loney
FL 16

John K.

W. C. C.

W. C. C.

Michael M.

Walter B. Jones

J. H. M.

John Fleming LA 04

Mr. T. H.

Robert Griffith ALS

K. T. H. TX-11

[Signature]

Cathleen K. Ryan WA-05

Mindy Royer AL-3

Paula MA-6

Doug Lamborn CO-5

Mary Fullin

M/S A PA12

Joe Courtney

AMK [unclear] CA. 1/14

John

Robert E. D.

[Signature]

[Signature]

Charles W. K. Leger WA-05

Mike Metzger NC-7

Mike Royer AL-3

Paula MD-6

Doug Lamborn CO-5

Warner, Nancy

From: Hankins, Brenda
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 9:27 AM
To: Warner, Nancy
Subject: Letter from Mr. Forbes

Nancy,

Here is a list of all of the members that signed the letter. Please let me know if there is anything else you need.

Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett – (MD-6)
Congressman Mac Thornberry – (TX-13)
Congressman Walter B. Jones – (NC-03)
Congressman W. Todd Akin – (MO-02)
Congressman J. Randy Forbes – (VA-04)
Congressman Jeff Miller – (FL-01)
Congressman Joe Wilson – (SC-02)
Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo – (NJ-02)
Congressman Rob Bishop – (UT-01)
Congressman Michael Turner – (OH-03)
Congressman John Kline – (MN-02)
Congressman Mike Rodgers – (AL-03)
Congressman Trent Franks – (AZ-02)
Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers – (WA-05)
Congressman K. Michael Conaway – (TX-11)
Congressman Doug Lamborn – (CO-05)
Congressman Rob Wittman – (VA-01)
Congresswoman Mary Fallin – (OK-05)
Congressman Duncan Hunter – (CA-52)
Congressman John C. Fleming – (LA-04)
Congressman Mike Coffman – (CO-06)
Congressman Thomas J. Rooney – (FL-16)
Congressman Todd Russell Platts – (PA-19)
Congressman Charles K. Djou – (HI-01)
Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz – (TX-27)
Congressman Mike McIntyre – D (NC-07)
Congressman Robert Andrews – (NJ-01)
Congressman Jim Cooper – D (TN-05)
Congressman Joe Courtney – (CT-02)
Congressman Glenn Nye – (VA-02)
Congressman Mark Critz – (PA-12)
Congressman Dan Boren – D (OK-02)
* Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott – (VA-03)
* Congressman Bob Goodlatte – (VA-06)
* Congressman Frank Wolf – (VA-10)
* Congressman Gerald Connolly – (VA-11)
* Congressman Parker Griffith – (AL-05)

* denotes not a member of the House Armed Services Committee

Brenda Hankins

Legislative Director

Office of Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04)