

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E880
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Panetta,

On December 22, 2011, the United States Air Force (USAF) awarded a \$355 million contract to Sierra Nevada/Embraer for Light Air Support (LAS) aircraft to be used by the Afghan National Army Air Force. This award represents the first USAF purchase made under the LAS contract's \$950 million ceiling. Prior to the award, the USAF controversially excluded Hawker Beechcraft (HBC) from competition, creating what amounts to a sole-source contract for the Brazilian-based jet manufacturer, Embraer. We respectfully request the Department to provide Congress with a thorough explanation as to why the USAF excluded Hawker Beechcraft from the competition.

Up until the time the USAF excluded HBC, LAS was a closely fought contest between the Hawker Beechcraft Corporation's AT-6B and Embraer's Super Tucano. The U.S. taxpayers have already invested billions of dollars into the U.S. Air Force and Navy T-6 trainer fleets built and maintained by HBC. This investment has allowed Hawker to make a competitive LAS bid that leverages and maximizes the existing logistics, support, and pilot training investment already made by the United States Government. HBC is a trusted supplier to the U.S. military and a valued part of many local communities.

Mr. Secretary, we believe it is important that the Air Force be abundantly transparent and forthright given that it has excluded an American company from a significant competition. We hope you recognize the importance of this situation.

Thank you for your personal attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA)
Member of Congress



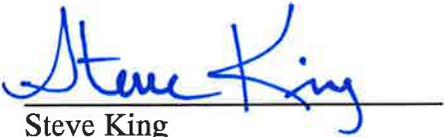
Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



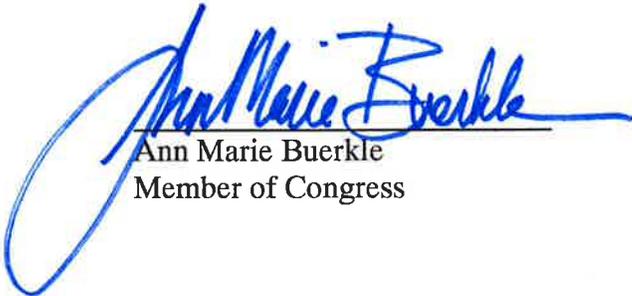
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress



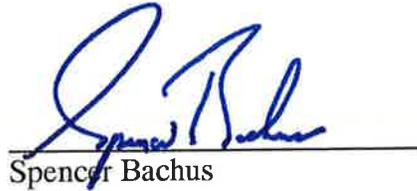
Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



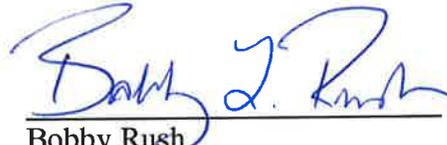
Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



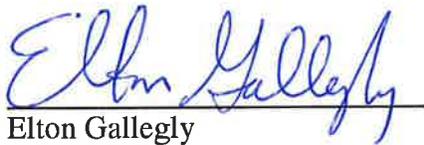
Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Christopher Murphy (CT)
Member of Congress



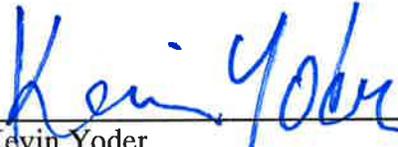
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress



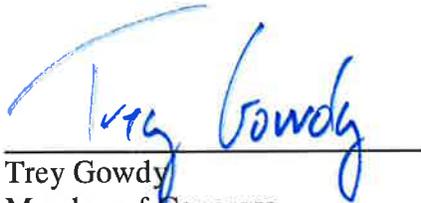
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



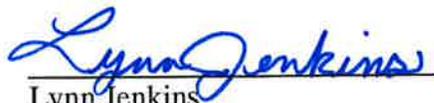
Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress