

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

October 10, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We have recently been made aware that the Department is considering the elimination of the Office of Net Assessment (ONA). Given the critical contributions to U.S. national security made by the Office during its forty-year history and its role as a central repository for long-range strategic thinking, we believe it would be a serious error to further consider its abolition.

ONA has been at the forefront of the most innovative defense strategies of the last two generations. From developing the concept of "competitive strategies" during the Cold War, to examining the implications of a Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) in the years following the Soviet Union's collapse, to helping to drive the development of the Air-Sea Battle concept, ONA has been the principal intellectual driver of the long-range strategies required to protect and promote U.S. national interests.

Furthermore, and perhaps less-noticed, throughout ONA's history the Office has trained and mentored numerous strategic practitioners who have made considerable contributions to our Nation's long-range thinking. In short, the Office's unique culture has allowed it to remain an important proving ground for the next generation of strategists who will help guide U.S. strategy well into the 21st century.

In closing, we ask that you provide us with a commitment to the Office of Net Assessment and ensure that it remains appropriately funded in light of its singular and continuing contributions to American national security and interests.

Sincerely,

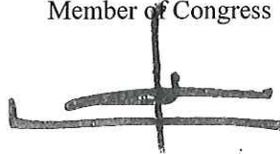
 

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