

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On August 9, 2010, Secretary Gates announced broad plans to reduce costs in the Department of Defense and reapportion those savings throughout the Department. As part of this plan, the Secretary announced eight initiatives that he plans to begin implementing immediately. These eight initiatives will affect the Department's ability to effectively fulfill its mission and the security of the nation and the lives and livelihoods of thousands of people. A decision of this magnitude should not be made without thorough analysis of the ramifications, including the actual costs and benefits in both dollars and in trade-offs to the national defense structure, nor without complete transparency in how the decision was made and what was reviewed to make the decision.

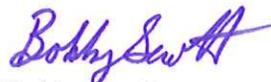
As such, we are writing to request that you not approve the implementation of Secretary Gates' recommendations of the eight initiatives and direct that he not move forward with implementation on these initiatives until Congress has been (1) fully advised regarding the initiatives, (2) provided a full implementation plan for each initiative, (3) provided a chance to review the analysis of the cost savings, if any, and trade-offs made for these savings, and (4) whether the trade-offs are to the military's mission, the military's readiness, the administrative functions of the Department of Defense or our national security and strategy.

Thank you for understanding the need to proceed in a deliberate, thoughtful and fully transparent manner on a matter of such significance to our country and its Armed Forces.

Sincerely,



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



Bobby Scott
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Glenn C. Nye
Member of Congress