

September 30, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

The Department of Defense Efficiency Initiatives introduced in August of 2010 has the ability to greatly affect the Department in its ability to fulfill its mission. Due to the potential impact of the initiatives, it is imperative that decisions of this magnitude be made with the proper oversight, and with rigorous analysis and careful weighing of options. It is my opinion, as well as the opinion of many of my colleagues, that the decision-making process leading to the Efficiency Initiatives was lacking this analysis and made without full consideration of the costs to national security and our defense structure.

At hearings on the Efficiency Initiatives, Congress was told the decision was made after several meetings and careful analysis. However, the Committee is yet to see any documentation of these meetings, or any substantive analysis used in reaching the decision. Mr. Secretary, I join with my colleagues in asking for full disclosure in the process and all important decisions made affecting national security. It is in the best interest of our country's security and the future of our defense framework to ensure a transparent decision-making process.

There have been multiple requests by members of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to see the analysis used in reaching the Efficiency Initiatives decision. I am asking once again that any documents used by yourself and Admiral Mullen be provided to myself and the Committee within 2 weeks for review.

Mr. Secretary, I appreciate your understanding for the need for careful and deliberate decision making and full transparency in these sensitive and important security issues.

Very Truly Yours,

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress