

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2014

Representative Mac Thornberry
Vice Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

Representative Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

Dear Vice Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith,

We appreciate your leadership in and dedication to reforming the Department of Defense's acquisition system. Your efforts to undertake a methodical and results-oriented reform are desperately needed and greatly appreciated. As co-chairs of the New Democrat Coalition's National Security Task Force, we look forward to working with you and supporting this effort.

The New Democrat Coalition's National Security Task Force is dedicated to ensuring our nation has the strongest tools to safeguard our national security, including maintaining the best-trained, best-equipped, and most capable fighting force in the world. We look forward to leveraging our relationships with tech and business communities, appreciation for the role technology plays in today's military, emphasis on fiscal responsibility, and entrepreneurial focus to provide meaningful, data-driven contributions to this discussion.

Over the coming months, we will meet with representatives of industry and government to further enrich our understanding of how the Department's acquisition system may be improved. We look forward to offering specific and innovative approaches as part of this process. We anticipate that our proposals will fall into the following categories: making the government a better customer to business; empowering and growing the professional workforce; improving the management, administration, and accountability of non-major defense acquisition programs and services; and supporting a culture that is focused on achieving long-term success rather than short-term gains.

Again, thank you very much for your leadership and for the opportunity to participate in this effort.

Sincerely,



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress