



Washington, DC 20515-1604

May 28, 2008

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to you out of deep concern for America's manufacturing industrial base. As you know, we along with millions of other Americans are outraged that the Department of Defense has been sending more and more jobs overseas and leaving American workers behind.

The Department of Defense does not have a uniformed policy to ensure that the acquisition process takes into consideration the impact to American manufacturing jobs when a contract is awarded to a foreign competitor. The lack of consideration for our industrial base must come to an end.

We must take our industrial workforce into account and recognize its importance to our national security. We are requesting that, under existing authority, you take appropriate steps to ensure the industrial base concerns are taken into consideration on all future contracts made by the Department of Defense. If you believe additional legislative authority is required, we look forward to working with you to ensure our procurement process is consistent with the policy objectives of every elected official: to keep and create jobs in the United States.

It is only right that when American tax dollars are spent on vital defense contracts that we also take into consideration the jobs filled by working men and women in the United States. We consider it vital to our national and economic security that American jobs be retained whenever possible when it comes to providing the necessary tools for our military.

We look forward to your reply, and we are eager to work with you to help ensure our national defense needs are met, tax dollars are spent wisely and America's manufacturing base remains strong and vibrant.

Sincerely,



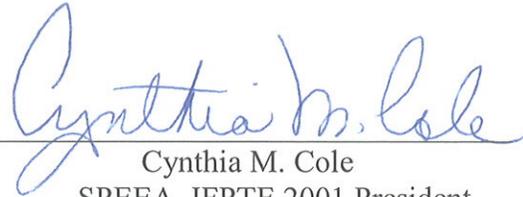
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Member of Congress



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



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