

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of our men and women in uniform. As Members of Congress, we take very seriously our responsibility to work with you to assure that our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have the resources they need to safely carry out their mission.

This is why we are deeply troubled by recent accounts reported in *The Washington Post* on July 16, 2009 ("Marines Waiting on Basic Supplies") that our Marines in Afghanistan "are short of basic equipment and supplies ranging from radios and vehicles to uniforms." Instead, our Marines are depending on outside sources to provide the items that they need to carry out the mission of the United States.

We understand certain logistical challenges exist in equipping our servicemembers in a hostile, rugged and largely-underdeveloped region like Afghanistan. However, after more than seven years of operations in Afghanistan, we expect that these challenges would have been foreseen, and that DOD would have a plan in place to coordinate and schedule the delivery of essential materials to our warfighters. It is unacceptable for United States servicemembers to deploy without proper support.

We therefore respectfully request that you direct an immediate review of DOD's supply delivery efforts in Afghanistan and take appropriate action to ensure adequate supplies are reaching our troops in the field. The men and women who put their lives on the line for our country deserve the very best support we can provide.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure our service members have all the equipment they need to fulfill their mission and return home safely.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "Dave Loebsack" and the second is "Bart Snyak". Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style. The signatures are positioned above a horizontal line.

Prof. Lisa
Alan Smith

John Smith

Tommy Baldwin

Carolyn McCreary Allee L. Hastings

David Price

Orlando E. Childer

Ray A. Wapner

John Argus

De Country

Carlson

John

John

John Long

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Don Mofferi

Michael N. Michael

David Zjinski

Betty Sutton

John Lusk

Robert Gufford

Mike Ripley
