

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2010

The Honorable Ashton Carter
Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics
3000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3000

Dear Undersecretary Carter:

We write in regards to an Acquisition Decision Memorandum on the Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS) program that your office presented to the Air Force. As you are aware, the ECSS program is the major part of an important initiative known as the Expeditionary Logistics for the 21st Century (eLog21) that is expected to result in a 10 percent cost savings over the Future Years Defense Program for the Air Force. A program delay or interruption resulting from the decision memorandum will negatively impact the ECSS program, likely resulting in future schedule delays and cost overruns.

Air Force Undersecretary Erin Conaton, in written testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on July 22, 2010, stated: "The ECSS is a major information technology initiative that is crucial to supporting the enterprise goals and outcomes of eLog21. By consolidating unconnected legacy logistic and supply information systems, ECSS will eliminate the enormous inefficiencies in those legacy systems that resulted from a lack of visibility throughout the supply chain. Once fully implemented, ECSS, in support of eLog21, will allow the Air Force to maintain smaller inventories, with a greater percentage of our equipment in the hands of those that need it."

It's also important that ECSS continue to be developed in the Dayton region – home to Wright Patterson Air Force Base and an experienced and skilled workforce with a proven track record. Delaying or cutting the program would jeopardize talent retention, lengthen the schedule, and increase program costs.

We encourage your office to work with the Air Force to quickly resolve any issues in order to ensure the program continues to move forward. We also request a briefing on the Pentagon's decision to issue the Acquisition Decision Memorandum. If you or your staff has any questions or concerns, please contact Maggie Sadowska on Congressman Turner's staff at: Maggie.Sadowska@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-6465 and Mike Smullen on Congressman Austria's staff at: Mike.Smullen@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-4324.

We look forward to your prompt response and briefing on the decision memorandum.

Sincerely,

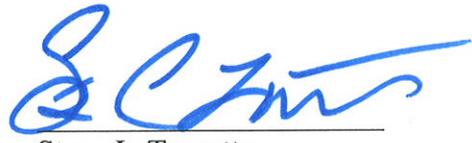


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