

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2014

Mr. Lawrence P. Farrell  
President & CEO  
National Defense Industrial Association  
2111 Wilson Blvd, Suite 400  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Farrell,

The Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives continue to look for opportunities to improve the Department of Defense (DOD) acquisition system. Despite the significant improvements made in the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 and other recent acquisition reform legislation, there is room for further improvements which could result in significant savings. Any such savings would be put to good use, as DOD's resources for acquiring weapons systems, products, and services are relatively constrained by tight budget caps.

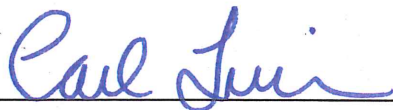
As we look for opportunities to improve the DOD acquisition system, it is important to seek and consider a variety of views, including the views of the defense industry and industry organizations. Accordingly, we ask for your input on the following issues:

- a. Steps that DOD or Congress could take to reduce the cost of major defense acquisition programs;
- b. Steps that DOD or Congress could take to expedite the delivery of useful capabilities to the warfighter;
- c. Steps that DOD could take to improve how it recruits, trains, and develops its acquisition workforce;
- d. Steps that DOD or Congress could take to empower key acquisition personnel, such as program managers and cost estimators, to make sound choices throughout the acquisition process;
- e. Steps that DOD and industry could take to develop and foster the technical expertise necessary to support successful acquisitions;
- f. Steps that DOD could take to improve planning, contracting, oversight and management of services contracts;
- g. Steps that Congress could take to improve oversight of DOD acquisitions – both products and services; and
- h. Steps that DOD or Congress could take to incentivize timely delivery of capability and services for the warfighter and full consideration of life cycle costs.

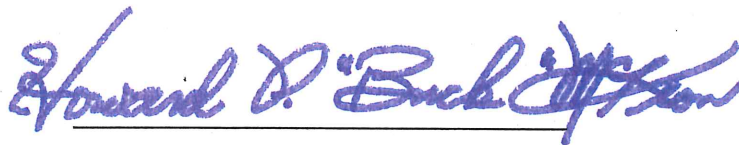
For any recommended steps that would require a change to existing statute or regulation, we ask that you specify the statute or regulation and the precise change that you recommend. We ask that any response be provided to the two committees by July 10, 2014. If you have any questions

regarding this request, please contact Lynn Williams at 202-226-6164, William Spencer Johnson at 202-225-4224, Jay Maroney at 202-224-4013, or Bill Castle at 202-224-6371.

Sincerely,



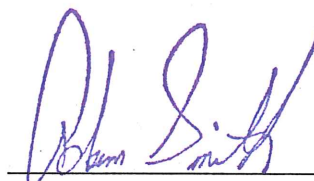
Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Armed Services



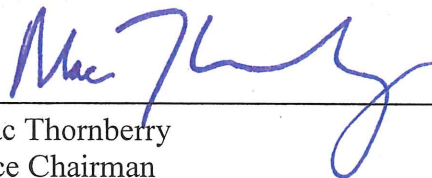
Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
House Committee on Armed Services



James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member



Adam Smith  
Ranking Member



Mac Thornberry  
Vice Chairman

cc:

National Defense Industrial Association  
Aerospace Industrial Association  
TechAmerica  
Professional Services Council  
Information Technology Industry Council  
American Bar Association  
American Federation of Government Employees  
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers  
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO