

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2013

The Honorable Charles T. Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We are writing to you regarding a December 7 Associated Press article on the Department of Defense's purchase of Russian Mi-17 helicopters.

The article, entitled "Did the Pentagon mislead Congress over purchase of Russian Mi-17s for Afghanistan," cites senior Pentagon officials assuring Congress that the Russian-made helicopters were the "superior choice" for outfitting the Afghan security forces. According to a 2010 Department of Defense internal study, however, the U.S. Army's Chinook was found to be "the most cost-effective single platform type fleet for the Afghan Air Force over a twenty year period." If this study is correct, why was the Chinook not chosen as the aircraft for the Afghan security forces? Furthermore, the article also indicates that the recommendation for the Chinook may have been overruled by high ranking Department of Defense officials.

As lawmakers who represent the workers who make the CH-47 Chinook at the Boeing Facility located in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, we respectfully request clarification on the allegations that the Pentagon overruled a recommendation to buy an American-made aircraft.

We ask that you please provide a detailed response, as well as a briefing in January on Capitol Hill, on these important issues to our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration with regards to this request. We look forward to your response.

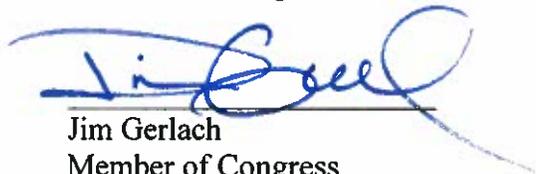
Sincerely,



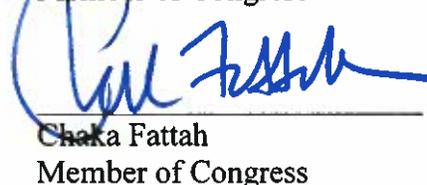
Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



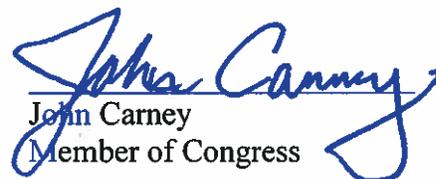
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



John Carney
Member of Congress