

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

June 7, 2012

The Honorable Buck McKeon  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Chairman McKeon:

We write to express our concerns regarding the U.S. Air Force's lack of transparency regarding the development of the requirements for the Afghanistan Light Attack Support (LAS) acquisition.

As you know, in February 2012, the Air Force cancelled the LAS contract award to Brazil-based Embraer S.A., and a Command Directed Investigation was ordered to examine the serious problems associated with this procurement. The Secretary of the Air Force stated at the time: "The Air Force Senior Acquisition Executive is not satisfied with the documentation supporting the award decision." We support the Secretary's review of the circumstances surrounding the LAS contract award; however, to date the Air Force has not provided Congress with adequate information on their dissatisfaction with the original award decision. On May 4, 2012, the Air Force released the new LAS request for proposal that has again raised serious questions about the requirements development process, including why reduced standards for pilot ejection seats are permissible.

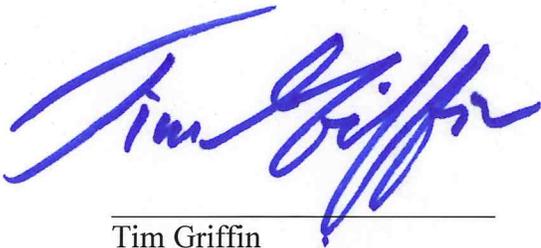
This acquisition will become the program of record for the "Building Partnership Capacity of Partner States" mission area of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). The 2010 QDR states: "The Air Force will field light mobility and light attack aircraft in general purpose forces to increase their ability to work effectively with a wider range of partner air forces." We understand the Air Force identified roughly 27 nations, including Afghanistan, with capability needs for which the winner of the Afghanistan LAS competition will become the program of record to address that requirement.

We are concerned with the Air Force's development of the requirements for the LAS aircraft in their request for proposal. We understand that formal U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition processes were not used, that the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System (JCIDS) was not employed, that no Joint Urgent Operational Need (JUON) exists, and that initial requirements came from multiple Memorandums of Request (MOR).

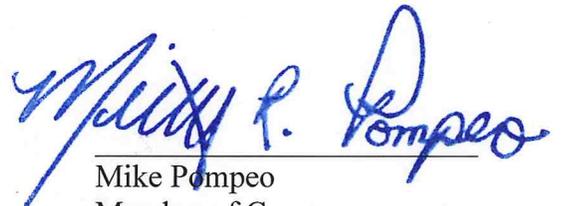
We are concerned that critically important requirement development safeguards have been overlooked or ignored. The requirements process supports the acquisition process by providing validated capability needs and associated performance criteria to be used as a basis for acquiring the right weapon systems. We believe it is only through a complete understanding of the requirements development process that we can ensure the correct aircraft platform will be selected for use by the 27 identified partner countries, and possibly by U.S. Forces as well.

We ask you for your assistance in obtaining an explanation from the Air Force of the entire requirements development history for the Afghanistan LAS acquisition and to include the development of any applicable MORs. This information may help restore needed confidence in this significant procurement effort. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with the Armed Services Committee to gain clarification from the Air Force. Thank you.

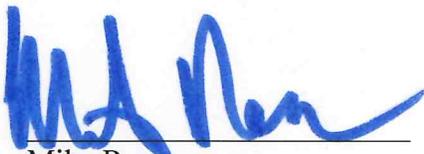
Sincerely,



Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress



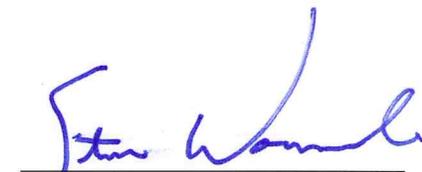
Lynn Jenkins  
Member of Congress



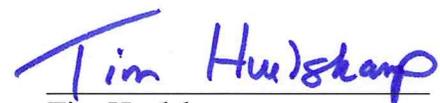
Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



Kevin Yoder  
Member of Congress



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress