

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our strong support for Army Network Modernization. Army Network Modernization programs will provide our soldiers with modern, capable and flexible communications – specifically the Warfighter Information Network–Tactical (WIN-T) and Handheld, Manpack, Small Form Fit (HMS) radio. A soldier's communications gear can be just as important as body armor and rifles in combat, providing the situational awareness necessary to increase combat effectiveness, reduce civilian casualties and prevent friendly-fire tragedies.

During Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, the pace of each conflict outran our force's ability to communicate. Even today, many troops still operate on analog radio technology from the early 1980s. At home, people have access to broadband Internet through mobile devices. In their cars and on the move, they can access GPS and maps, data and voice anytime, anywhere. This is not so for most deployed soldiers. WIN-T and HMS are the answer to this problem.

While we do not know what the next conflict or humanitarian mission will be, we do know that our soldiers will need flexible and effective communications gear. WIN-T and HMS are successful technology and acquisition stories. HMS, for example, has two qualified vendors, building an open-architecture radio using only government-owned waveforms. The dual manufacturing strategy of having two vendors produce identical radios during the initial stages of full-rate production ensures that competition and flexibility are built into the program and maximizes the long-term affordability benefits. This strategy further allows the Army to leverage the significant investment it has already made in open, non-proprietary waveforms, thus ensuring capability for soldiers and value for taxpayers for years to come.

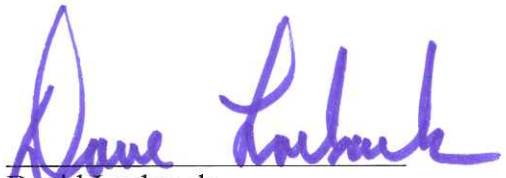
We understand the significant pressure being placed on the budget of the U.S. Army. Nonetheless, WIN-T and HMS cannot sustain additional cuts – including cuts from reprogramming. As Army Chief of Staff General Raymond T. Odierno made clear on August 7, 2012, "... The network remains [the Army's] number one modernization priority ... giving our commanders and soldiers vastly increased ability to communicate and share information on the battlefield ... while on the move and in the midst of ongoing operations."

We urge you to ensure that these programs remain on track to meet the Army Network Modernization acquisition strategy and provide these critical capabilities to our men and women in uniform.

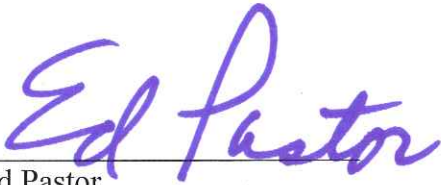
Sincerely,



K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



David Loebsack
Member of Congress



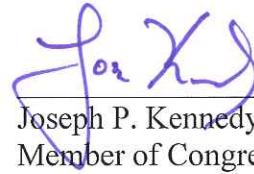
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



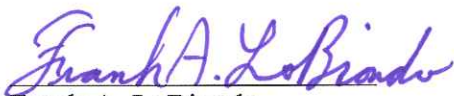
Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



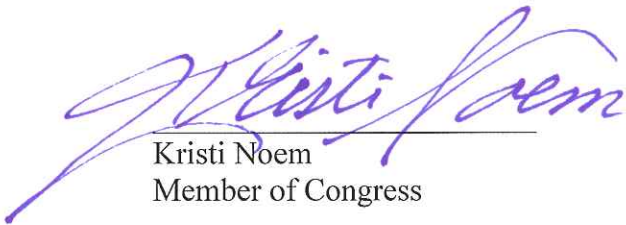
Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



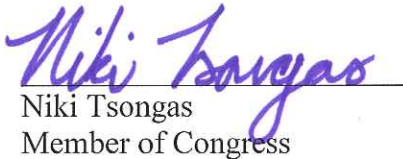
Rich Nugent
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress




Walter Jones
Member of Congress



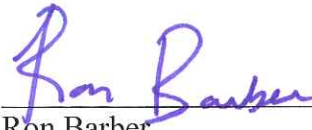
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



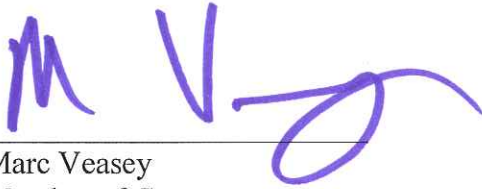
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



Bill Enyart
Member of Congress



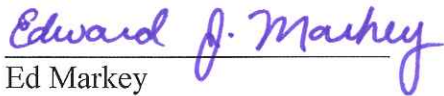
Dan Maffei
Member of Congress



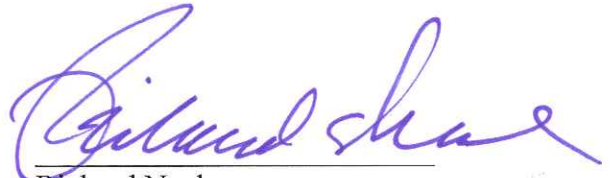
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



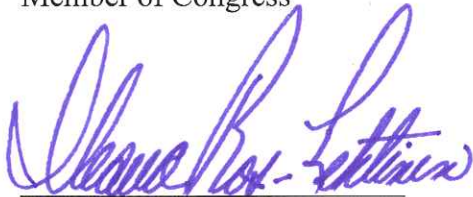
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Ed Markey
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lhetinen
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



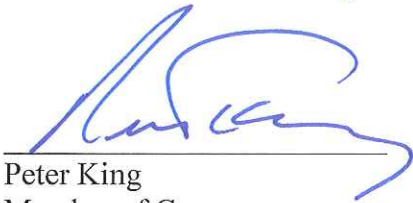
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



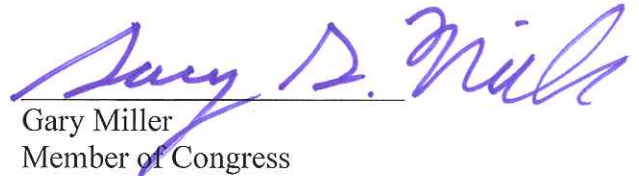
Peter King
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Gary Miller
Member of Congress



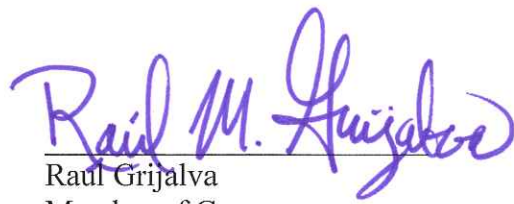
Michael Honda
Member of Congress



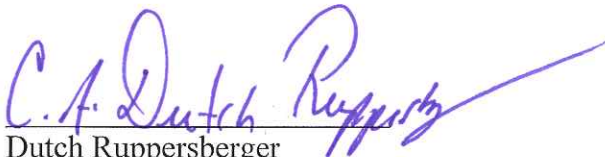
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



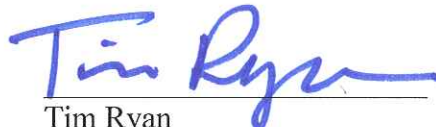
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



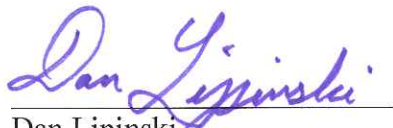
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

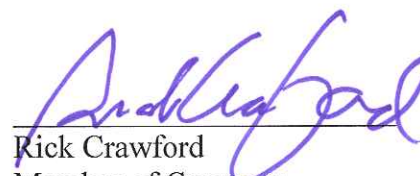

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

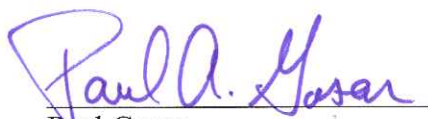

Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Leonard Lance
Member of Congress


Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Paul Gosar
Member of Congress


Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress


Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

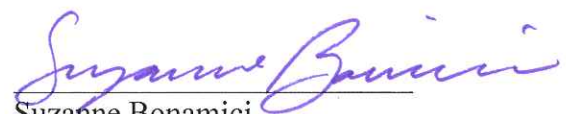

William Keating
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress


David Schweikert
Member of Congress

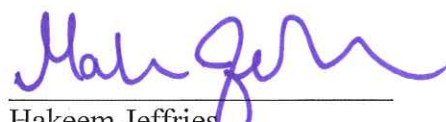

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

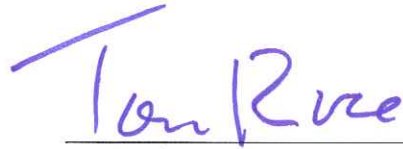

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress


Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

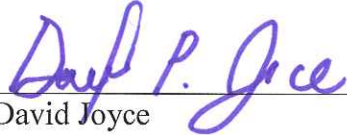

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



David Joyce
Member of Congress



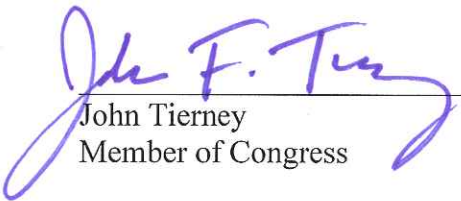
Ann Kuster
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



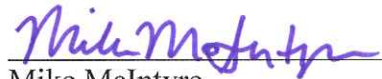
John Tierney
Member of Congress



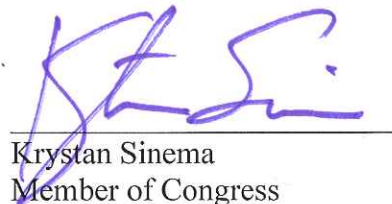
Pete Gallego
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Krystan Sinema
Member of Congress