

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to you today in regards to your Presidential Memorandum on the hiring freeze of federal civilian employees. We applaud your intention to reduce the size of the federal government and lessen the bureaucratic burden that has accumulated over the last eight years.

However, the implementation of this memorandum, though only nine days in effect, has already negatively affected the Department of Defense (DOD). DOD acquisition personnel negotiate contracts critical to our national security, from commercial off-the-shelf products to major defense acquisition programs. They bear the distinguished responsibility of obligating taxpayer dollars to procure essential defense equipment and services, and their defense industry counterparts often outnumber them while doing so.

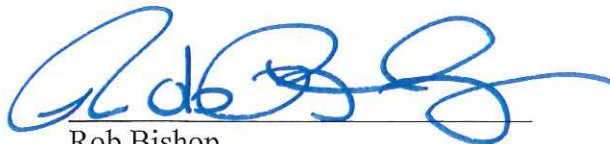
In an effort to secure a fair and reasonable price, these federal civilian professionals are gradually contributing to the force restoration our military so desperately needs. Each Service currently confronts a readiness crisis – museum aircraft cannibalized for spare parts, a Naval fleet unable to meet even half of Combatant Commander requirements, two-thirds of our Armored Brigade Combat Teams unfit for deployment, and a 50% increase in Marine Corps aviation Class-A mishaps over the past two years. Our military needs its acquisition personnel fully staffed and fulfilling their public service. Yet the military departments are now interpreting the Hiring Freeze memorandum to include these federal civilians essential to national security and military readiness.

For that reason, we strongly urge you to clarify your Presidential Memorandum as quickly as possible, and support the complete resourcing for DOD contracting offices. Their work directly impacts our military's ability to modernize its equipment and keep its technological edge against a broad range of threats.

Sincerely,



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



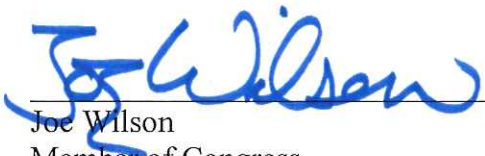
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Mike Turner
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



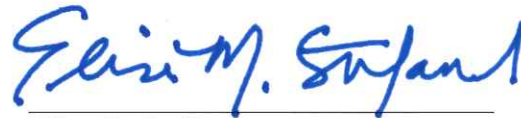
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress




Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Steve Knight
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



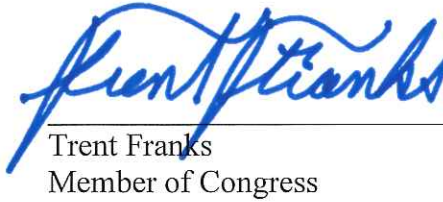
Scott Taylor
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



Dr. Neal Dunn
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
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Ralph Abraham M.D.
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
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