

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

June 25, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We understand that Congress' inability to address our long-term fiscal challenges is forcing all the armed forces to make tough decisions. However, we find it extremely disturbing that the Department of Defense is proceeding with plans to furlough their civilian workforce while at the same time giving an American taxpayer-funded pay raise to foreign national employees in Germany.

The *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act*, which became law on March 26, 2013, gave the Department of Defense the flexibility and funding necessary to prevent resorting to furloughs of hardworking Americans. While we are disappointed that this flexibility granted to you was not used to avoid furloughs, it is even more shocking that at the same time you are furloughing Americans you are also increasing compensation to foreign workers.

We would also like to point out that those same Americans have not seen a pay increase for three years.

Because you continue to allow furloughs to go forward, the DOD civilian workforce will see a 20 percent decrease in their monthly salary over the coming months. This could cause highly-skilled potential employees to reconsider a career as a DOD civilian, especially given the appearance of foreign workers taking priority over dedicated Americans.

While we understand the importance of the foreign national workforce at our installations overseas, we urge you to put American workers first. We do not see the fairness in this proposed course of action and ask that you again reconsider the furloughs of American DOD employees.

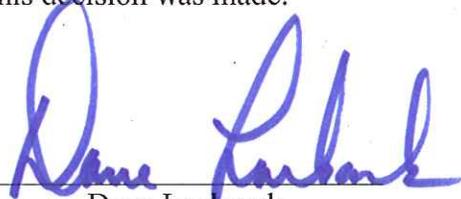
Long term pay freezes and furloughs should not go forward while a proposal to increase pay for German workers by \$40 per month, including a lump sum payment of \$670, is being worked out.

We respectfully ask that the DOD please explain why you are giving pay raises to foreign national employees in Germany while furloughs continue for hardworking Americans. The continuing resolution that allows additional funding and flexibility was passed to help eliminate the impact of the sequester on Americans, not to provide pay increases for Germans. Please provide an explanation within 10 working days as to why this decision was made.

Sincerely,



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



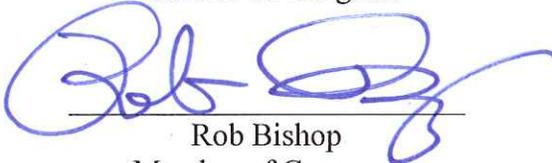
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



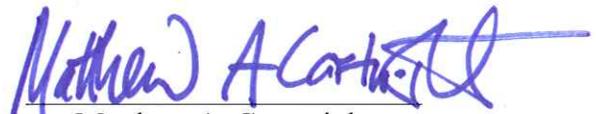
William L. Enyart  
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



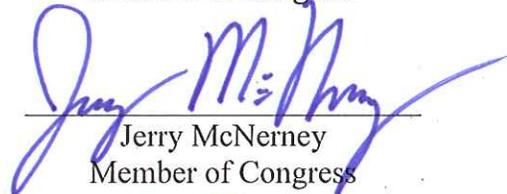
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



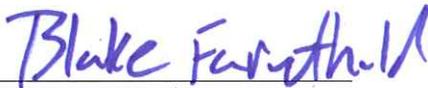
Matthew A. Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



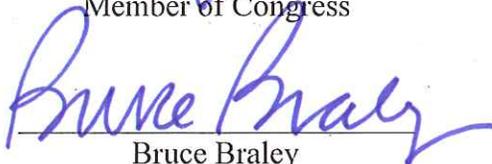
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



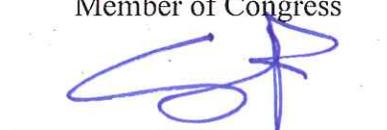
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



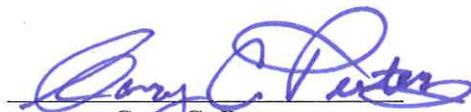
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



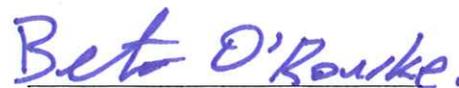
Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress