

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2014

Secretary Ray Mabus
Office of the Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Dear Secretary Mabus:

We write today to request the U.S. Navy take action to address our concerns surrounding the transparency and fairness in the current and future procurement structure used by the Navy to procure aviation tires for our nation's Sailors and Marines.

We request the Navy use the existing DLA Tire Successor Initiative (TSI) framework to create needed transparency, fairness, and trust within an open and fair competition and one that is currently used for the rest of the Department of Defense.

The Navy has announced its intention to continue the current tire procurement structure managed by a tire manufacturer, which is outside the well-established and effective Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) process used by the Army and Air Force. If this current procurement continues without change, it will not provide requisite protections of the U.S. industrial base or potential alternative sources of mission critical items. Consequently, this current procurement structure simply cannot continue.

The United States Congress and its Armed Services and Appropriations Committees have each repeatedly instructed the Department of Defense on tire procurement, which led to the creation of the TSI.

There is no need during this period of sequestration and severe budget austerity for the Navy to maintain a separate and unequal process for procuring tires than has already been established by the DLA.

DLA's Long Term Tire Supply Contracts ensures that the government's best interests are upheld verses the conflicting and potentially self-serving interests of a tire manufacturer as prime contractor. TSI provides transparency so that all manufacturers receive equal information about demand forecasts under the contract and receive equal information about shipments of tires by each manufacturer under the contract.

The Navy should abandon use of its current stand alone tire contract and utilize the procurement structure already put in place for military tires by the DLA. The DLA's Tire Successor Initiative has ensured transparent, fair, equal and open competition for military tire procurements while saving American taxpayer money.

Again, we request the Navy use the existing DLA TSI framework to create needed transparency, fairness, and trust within an open and fair competition and one that is currently used for the rest of the Department of Defense.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this issue and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress



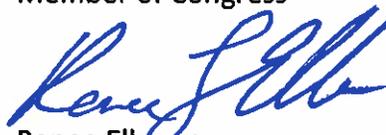
Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Howard Coble
Member of Congress



Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
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Robert Hurt
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Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



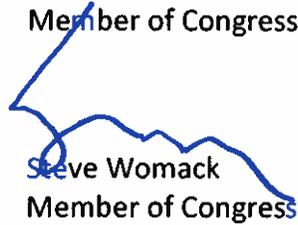
David Joyce
Member of Congress



David Price
Member of Congress



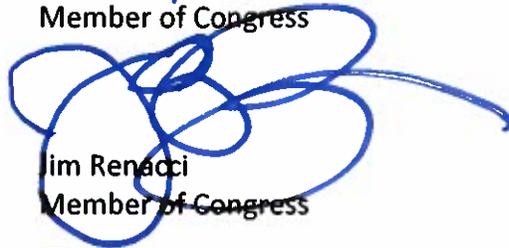
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress

CC: Defense Logistics Agency