

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

October 7, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Hagel:

We are writing to commend you for your decision to request that the majority of Department of Defense (DoD) furloughed civilians return to work beginning this week, pursuant to Public Law Number 113-39, the *Pay Our Military Act*, which was enacted on September 30, 2013.

We also are writing to respectfully request that the Department exercise maximum discretion in implementing Section 2(a)(3) of the *Pay Our Military Act* to ensure that the activities of DoD contractors whose functions contribute to the morale, well-being, capabilities, and readiness of service members are promptly resumed in conjunction with the recall of previously furloughed DoD civilian employees.

As you are aware, Section 2(a)(3) of the *Pay Our Military Act* provides that:

*(a) In General- There are hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2014, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for any period during which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2014 are not in effect--*

*(1) such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to members of the Armed Forces (as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code), including reserve components thereof, who perform active service during such period;*

*(2) such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to the civilian personnel of the Department of Defense (and the Department of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard) whom the Secretary concerned determines are providing support to members of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1); and*

*(3) such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to contractors of the Department of Defense (and the Department of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard) whom the Secretary concerned determines are providing support to members of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1).*

Pursuant to this provision, we urge you to direct all Military Departments and DoD components to expeditiously identify all DoD contractors and contract activities that fall under the categories previously identified, to provide pay and allowances to all eligible contractors supporting our members of the Armed Forces, and to significantly reduce the number of limitations placed on contract activities that were instituted as a consequence of the emergency furloughs of thousands of civilian DoD employees responsible for contract administration functions.

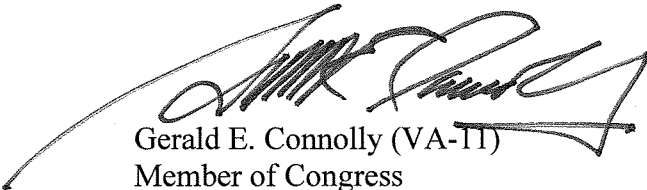
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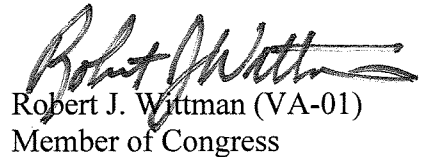
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Our Nation's contract workforce provides critical support to the Federal Government in carrying out its mission on behalf of the American people. Just as punishing our dedicated civil servants by withholding back pay for a shutdown they did not cause would be unfair, wrong, and harm our economy; penalizing the thousands of dedicated contractors who work shoulder-to-shoulder with our Federal workers would be counter to our national interest; harming our economy, undermining our national security, and unfairly hurting another group of Americans, who did not cause this shutdown and simply wish to get back to work supporting members of our Armed Forces. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman (VA-01)  
Member of Congress