Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Mr. Rand Beers
Secretary (Acting)
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Hagel, Mr. Beers, Director Burwell,

Thank you for your service to our great Nation and your commitment to those who defend the United States, their families, Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard civilians, and our veterans. I am writing today to draw your attention to an issue that negatively impacts the families of hundreds of thousands of Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard civilians around the world and has the potential to needlessly hurt our national security if not rectified immediately.

On September 30, 2013, the Congress passed and President Obama subsequently signed into law H.R. 3210, which ensures that members of our Armed Forces (including reserve components), civilian personnel of the Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard, and contractors of the Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard will continue to be paid in the event of a lapse in appropriations during fiscal year 2014.

While the President has ensured military members will continue to be paid during this government shutdown, we are disheartened that the Administration chose to needlessly furlough workers against the intent of Congress. The language outlined in H.R. 3210 purposefully exempts Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard employees supporting the Armed Forces. Since all DoD and U.S. Coast Guard civilian employees serve to support the uniformed services, all of these civilian employees should be returned to work without further delay.

Additionally, the text of H.R. 3210 specifically includes all those "who perform active service." The term "active service" is defined in current law as active-duty or full-time National Guard duty. This implies that, under H.R. 3210, all National Guard AGR, dual-status technicians, and active Reserve members would continue to be paid. Unfortunately, our

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understanding is the Department of Defense is interpreting "active service" as only those reservists who have been federalized, which would not be compatible with current law and breaks with the intent of H.R. 3210.

Thank you for your attention on this matter and we look forward to the favor of your reply.

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER

MICHAEL MICHAUD

MICHAEL TURNER

TIMOTHY WALZ

ROB BISHOP

THOMAS ROONEY

JIM BRIDENSTINE

GEORGE HOLDING

MIKE ROGERS (AL-03)

JOHN SHIMKUS

WALTER JONES

RANDY FORBES

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