

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 16, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

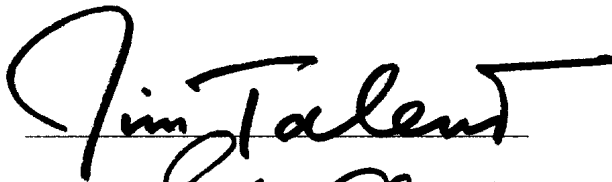
We ask for your support to continue full funding of the C-17 transport program in the fiscal year 2007 budget request. At present, the Defense Department plans only to complete the current multi-year procurement plan of 180 aircraft. Cancellation of the C-17 program before we acquire the fleet we need would dramatically limit our military's air logistics capabilities.

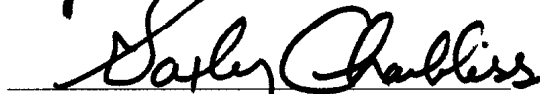
Only the C-17 can fly across the globe and land on the short, austere runways found in many conflict zones. The C-17 carries considerably more cargo than available tactical transports, and can deliver troops and equipment directly to conflict zones.

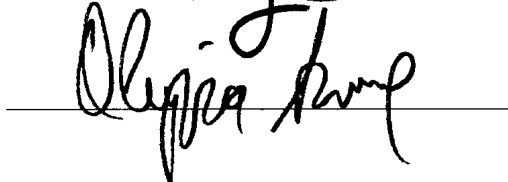
The C-17 is the only long-range transport in production. In light of the unpredictability of the national security environment and our increasing involvement in humanitarian relief missions, we believe it unwise to terminate production of the C-17. The Defense Science Board (DSB), composed of DoD's most senior scientific advisors, agrees with our assessment. The DSB recently noted the risks associated with prematurely closing the C-17 production line, and recommended that "it is prudent to keep options open for the acquisition of additional C-17s."

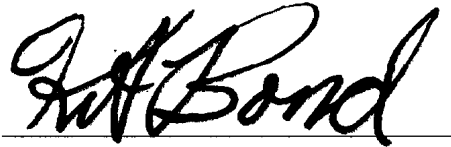
Because of its versatility and reliability, there is strong support for further C-17 production. We request your support to continue production of this vital national security asset. Absent your support, the supplier base in 42 states will begin to shut down early next year.

Sincerely,













President Bush
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~~George Bush~~
James Claxton
Mike DeLoe
Bob Boyer

~~George Bush~~
Chris Dodd
Ed Kennedy