



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

27 FEB 2009

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

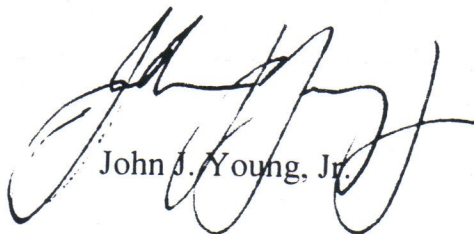
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 134 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorizations Act (PL 110-417) for Fiscal Year 2009 restricts the obligation of appropriated funds for advanced procurement of F-22A aircraft until after certification addressing future F-22A production. Specifically, of the amounts appropriated for F-22A advanced procurement in Fiscal Year 2009, not more than \$140 million may be obligated until the President certifies whether the procurement of F-22A fighter aircraft is in the national interest of the United States or, termination of the production line for F-22A fighter aircraft is in the national interest of the United States.

The Department is completing a final review of the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Budget. Due to the importance of this decision, it is prudent to complete the Department's Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Budget review process before making a recommendation to the Administration on the future of the F-22A program.

The Department will not obligate funds for the procurement of the F-22A to exceed \$140 million, consistent with Section 134. The Department believes these funds will be adequate to preserve all F-22 procurement options until final Fiscal Year 2010 budget decisions are made by the President. Therefore, the Presidential certification described in Section 134 will not be made by the required submission date. The Department is committed to working with the Congress on this important procurement program.

Sincerely,



John J. Young, Jr.

cc:

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

