

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2017

Dear Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee,

This year and again in 2019, the Department of Defense must meet critical audit deadlines necessary to making the department auditable. In recent years, substantial progress has been made toward achieving department-wide auditability. For example, as detailed in the May 2016 FIAR Plan, “over 90 percent of the Department’s \$673 billion in current-year budgetary resources...and 78 percent of [the] total budgetary resource are under audit.” While this is good news, this very progress may be jeopardized during the transition of the Executive Branch and its aftermath unless all newly instated appointees commit to carrying auditability through to full completion.

There are many factors necessary for the department’s audit success; however, emphasis by department leadership on the priority and importance of audit is the most significant. The entire department, like any chain of command, follows and adheres to their leadership’s priorities.

Prior to former Secretary Panetta’s 2011 decision to move up the deadline of the Statement of Budgetary Resources (which later became the Statement of Budgetary Activity) from 2017 to 2014, DoD audit efforts languished and the CFO Act of 1990 was often blatantly ignored. However, the course of the department’s audit efforts changed dramatically with Secretary Panetta’s decision. His department-wide memo emphasized audit and sent a strong, unmistakable message to the chain of command: audit is critical to the department’s mission and must be completed. Secretary Panetta’s leadership can be credited with jump-starting the efforts that led to the meaningful progress identified at the beginning of this letter.

DoD leaders confront a daily multitude of issues critical to our national defense. As the transition to the new administration takes place, we are concerned audit efforts may become minimized, or worse, relapse into insignificance. Audit work is cumulative by nature. As many of us have expressed before, the fragile audit progress made in recent years could be endangered if incoming leadership fails to make audit a priority. With a department of its size, nothing less than sustained, intense focus is necessary to carry audit across the finish line.

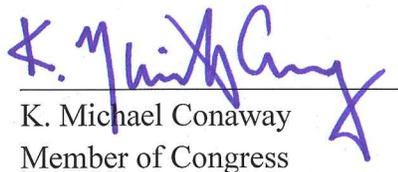
With this in mind, we ask you to guarantee *every* nominee (see accompanying annex) that comes before you this year – civilian and uniformed, whether in hearing format or otherwise – commits to either leading, supporting, or maintaining auditability as a top priority. Civilian and uniform

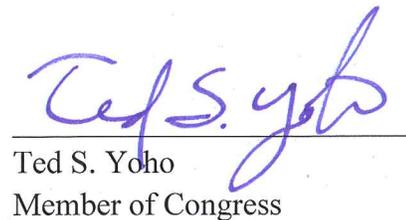
alike must truly understand the importance their continued vocalization and prioritization plays in advancing audit, if they are confirmed.

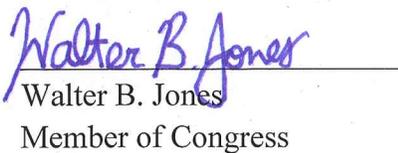
The approaching statutory deadlines are no longer blurry goals in the distance. Those confirmed through your committee will be in place for the 2017 audit readiness deadline and most likely be in place for the 2019 audit deadline. In order to be good stewards of taxpayer money and to ensure the department operates at its utmost dollar-for-dollar efficiency, the Senate must confirm only those who commit to and believe in better financial management, auditability, and reaching the 2017 and 2019 deadlines set in law.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Senate to ensure the Department of Defense becomes fully auditable.

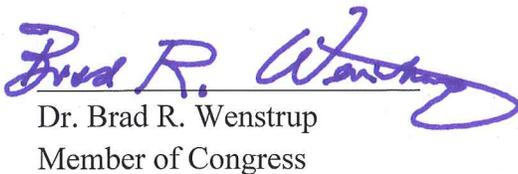
Sincerely,

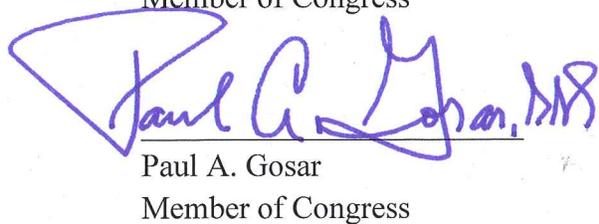

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

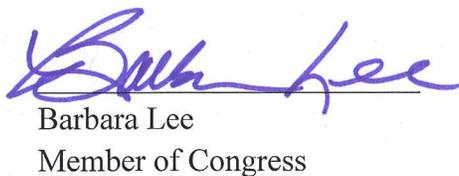

Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress

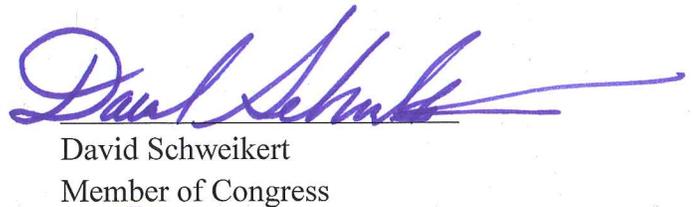

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

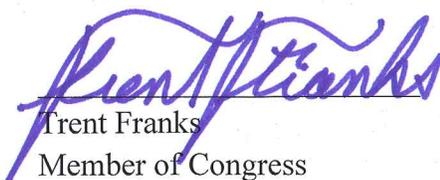

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

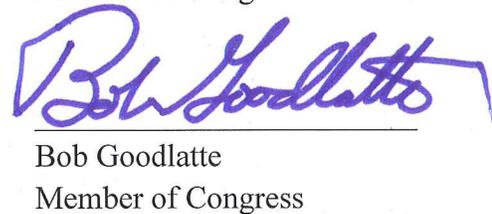

Dr. Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress

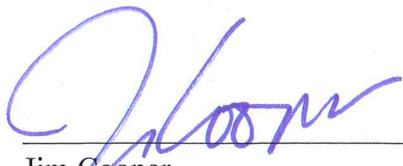

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

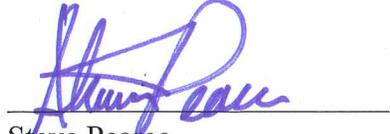

David Schweikert
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress


Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



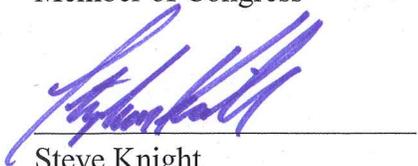
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



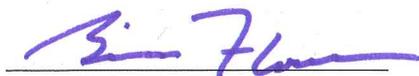
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



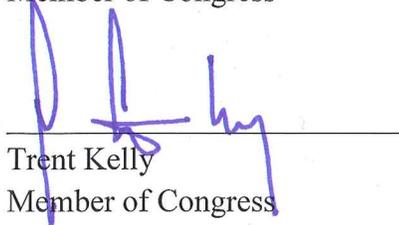
Steve Knight
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



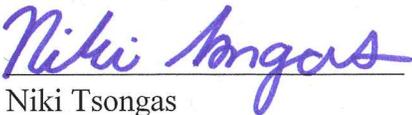
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



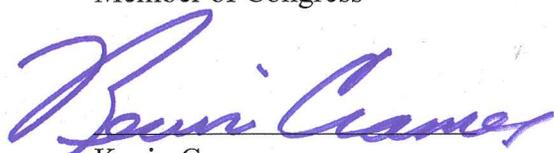
Roger Marshall
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



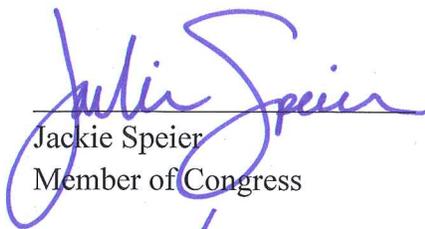
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



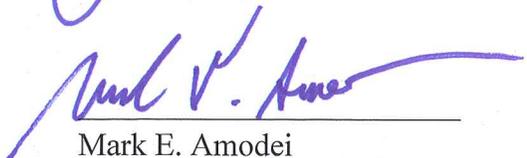
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



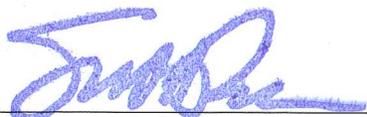
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



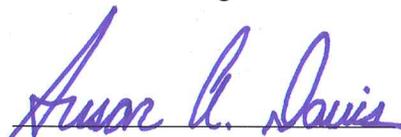
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



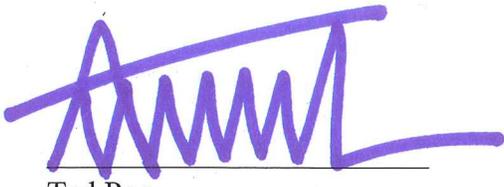
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



John Culberson
Member of Congress

cc:

Hon. Mac Thornberry, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
Hon. Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee

Annex

Anticipated 2017 Department of Defense Appointees requiring Senate Confirmation

Office of the Secretary

Secretary
Deputy Secretary
Under Secretary—Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Under Secretary—Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer
Under Secretary—Intelligence
Under Secretary—Personnel and Readiness
Under Secretary—Policy
Deputy Chief Management Officer
Principal Deputy Under Secretary—Acquisition, Technology & Logistics
Principal Deputy Under Secretary—Comptroller
Principal Deputy Under Secretary—Intelligence
Principal Deputy Under Secretary—Personnel and Readiness
Principal Deputy Under Secretary—Policy
Assistant Secretary—Acquisition
Assistant Secretary—Asian and Pacific Security Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Global Strategic Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Health Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs
Assistant Secretary—International Security Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Legislative Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Logistics and Materiel Readiness
Assistant Secretary—Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs
Assistant Secretary—Operational Energy Plans and Programs
Assistant Secretary—Readiness and Force Management
Assistant Secretary—Research and Engineering
Assistant Secretary—Reserve Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict
Assistant Secretary—Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities
Director—Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
Director—Defense Research and Engineering
Director—Operational Energy Plans and Programs
Director—Operational Test and Evaluation
Assistant to the Secretary—Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs
Inspector General

Department of the Air Force

Secretary
Under Secretary
Assistant Secretary—Acquisition
Assistant Secretary—Financial Management/Comptroller
Assistant Secretary—Manpower and Reserve Affairs
Assistant Secretary—Installations, Environment, and Logistics

Department of the Army

Secretary

Under Secretary

Assistant Secretary—Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology

Assistant Secretary—Civil Works

Assistant Secretary—Financial Management/Comptroller

Assistant Secretary—Installations and Environment

Assistant Secretary—Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Department of the Navy

Secretary

Under Secretary

Assistant Secretary—Financial Management/Comptroller

Assistant Secretary—Energy, Installations, and Environment

Assistant Secretary—Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Assistant Secretary—Research, Development, and Acquisition

Joint Chiefs of Staff

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Department of Energy

Under Secretary—Nuclear Security/Administrator—National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

Principal Deputy Administrator—NNSA

Deputy Administrator—Defense Programs—NNSA

Deputy Administrator—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation—NNSA

Assistant Secretary—Environmental Management

National Reconnaissance Office

Director

Inspector General

National Security Agency

Director

Inspector General