

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2012

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L)
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Kendall:

We write to urge you to ensure the Department of Defense's complete compliance with the letter and the spirit of the Berry Amendment. We believe full compliance of the Berry Amendment is in our national security interests and in our national economic interests. Moreover, we strongly believe that our troops should train and serve in uniforms made 100% here in the U.S.A.

As you know, the Berry Amendment requires DOD to procure clothing and other items that are made in the U.S. Congress first established this domestic preference for DOD procurement in 1941, and for decades the military branches complied by issuing American-made uniforms, including footwear, for our troops.

Recently, however, DOD has started circumventing this policy by issuing cash allowances for soldiers to purchase their own training shoes. In addition, a recent news report highlighted an Air Force Master Sergeant who was twice issued boots made in China. When he asked how he could exchange them for American-made boots, he was told "good luck." In both cases, the military purchased foreign products despite the availability of the exact same items that are manufactured and readily available in the U.S.

At a time when our country is at war and when our economy is recovering from a deep recession, it is more important than ever that DOD comply with the Berry Amendment. We should not rely on other countries, particularly those who may have competing global interests, to supply our forces with basic items. This is especially true when there are millions of Americans looking for work. More importantly, our soldiers deserve to fight in uniforms, including footwear, that are made in the U.S.A.

We are deeply troubled that DOD is circumventing the Berry Amendment, and we urge you to take all steps necessary to ensure that your agency complies with the spirit and the intent of the law.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress

Larry Kissell

LARRY KISSELL
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

CHARLES RANGEL
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern

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Member of Congress

Frank L. Obiondo

FRANK LOBIONDO
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Tim Bishop

TIM BISHOP
Member of Congress

Gene Green

GENE GREEN
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LINDA SÁNCHEZ
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John W. Dingell

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Dan Lipinski

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Peter DeFazio

PETER DEFAZIO
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Marsha Blackburn

MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

TIM RYAN
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BOBBY RUSH
Member of Congress

Howard Coble

HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress

Tom Marino

THOMAS MARINO
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ROBERT SCHILLING
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CHELLIE PINGREE
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TIM GRIFFIN
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JOE WILSON
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BETTY SUTTON
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JON RUNYAN
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TODD PLATTS
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Terrill Sewell

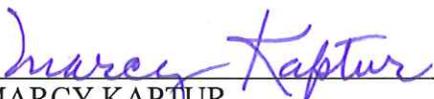
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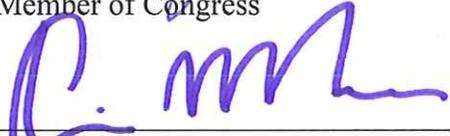
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LEONARD BOSWELL
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Donna Edwards

DONNA EDWARDS
Member of Congress

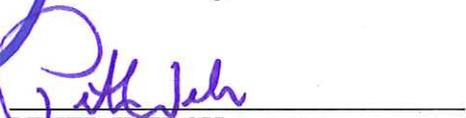

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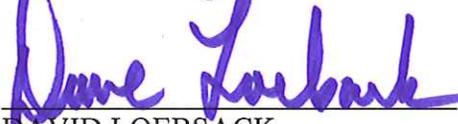

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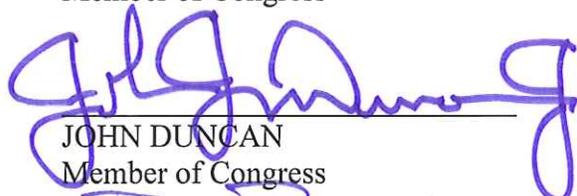

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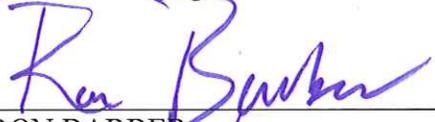

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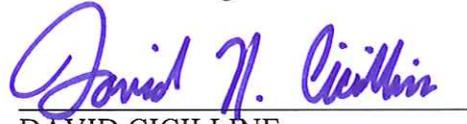

DAVID LOEBSACK
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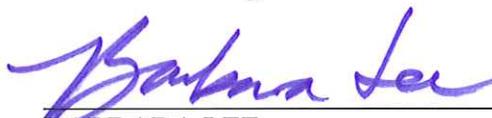

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
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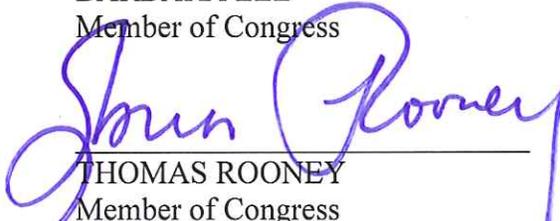

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