

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2003

The Honorable John Warner
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Warner:

As you know, Washington and the national papers have been abuzz with news of Buy American provisions, protectionism, and the state of America's manufacturing sector.

Many of us in Congress have been very concerned for some time that our nation's industrial base has been shrinking irreversibly. We worry that our industrial base is not merely shedding jobs, which may or may not "come back" when the economy rebounds fully, but is losing the very capacity to create and produce important industrial components here in the United States. What had been a rather amorphous debate has crystallized recently around the Department of Defense Authorization bill for 2004 and the House's support for expanding existing "Buy American" provisions.

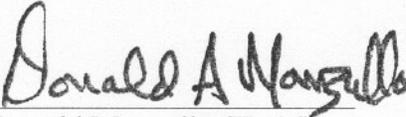
We are concerned that the debate about this bill and its ultimate disposition is clouding a needed discussion about the future of America's defense industrial base. Although the undersigned Members have differing views on trade, we all share a sincere concern about our nation's ability to protect itself and maintain our military superiority and global leadership. Our concerns are heightened by growing dependence on global supply chains, and the ease of their disruption at inconvenient times.

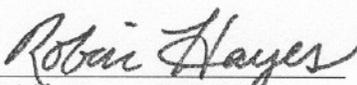
Because we respect your tremendous record of supporting our armed forces, we are anxious to learn more about your plans to help ensure America's defense industrial capacity. This critical issue shouldn't be left to regional interests or merely an old debate about protectionism. Instead, we would like to hear from you and better understand your long-term vision in this area, and what steps you are planning to help guarantee our ability to develop and produce weapons systems here in the US.

We, the undersigned Members, respectfully request an informal meeting with you to discuss these issues and gain a better understanding of existing plans. Please advise when a convenient time might be arranged. Questions may be directed to Manufacturing Caucus Chairman Donald Manzullo, or Patrick Wilson of his staff, at 202-225-5821.

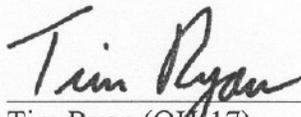
Many thanks for your leadership and consideration of this request.

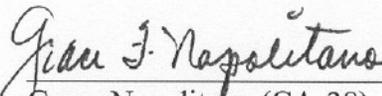
Respectfully,

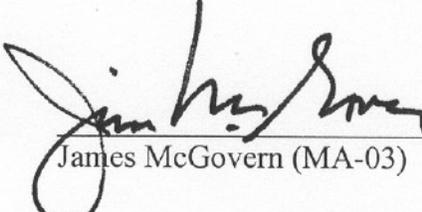

Donald Manzullo (IL-16)

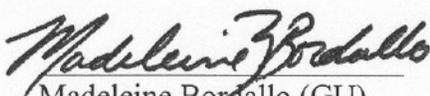

Robin Hayes (NC-08)

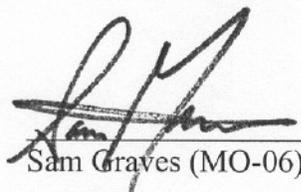

Mac Collins (GA-08)

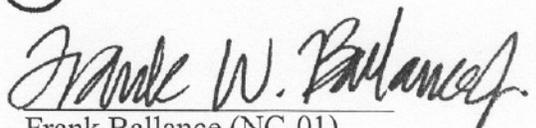

Tim Ryan (OH-17)

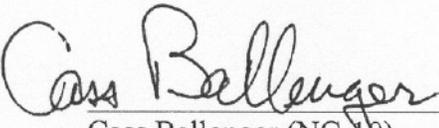

Grace Napolitano (CA-38)

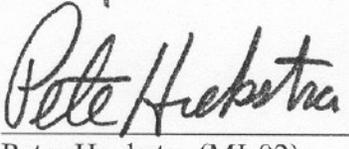

James McGovern (MA-03)

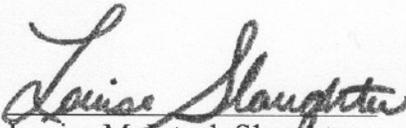

Madeleine Bordallo (GU)

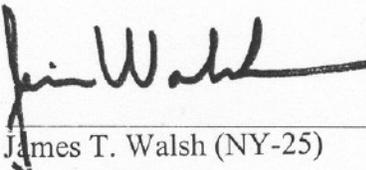

Sam Graves (MO-06)

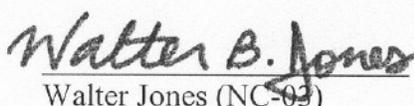

Frank Ballance (NC-01)


Cass Ballenger (NC-10)

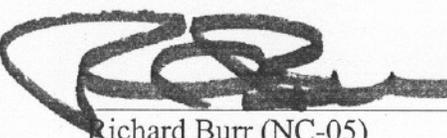

Peter Hoekstra (MI-02)

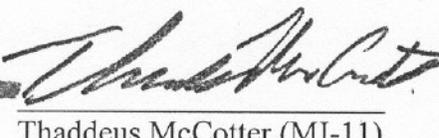

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
(NY-28)

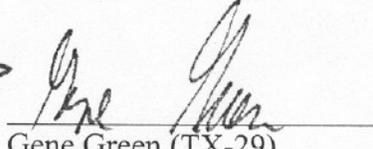

James T. Walsh (NY-25)

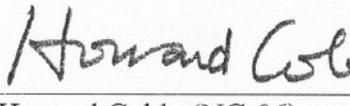

Walter Jones (NC-03)

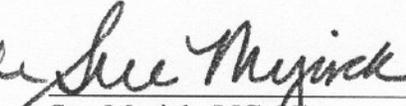

Dennis Cardoza (CA-18)

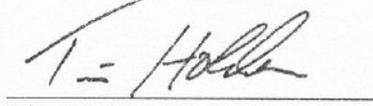

Richard Burr (NC-05)

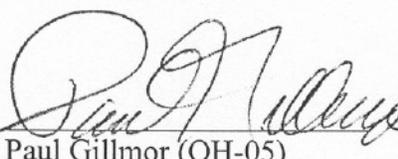

Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11)

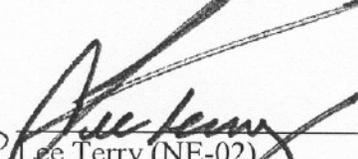

Gene Green (TX-29)

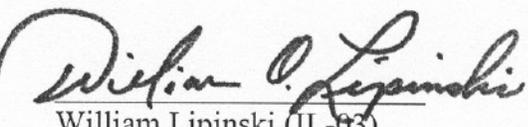

Howard Coble (NC-06)

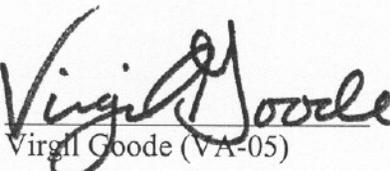

Sue Myrick (NC-09)

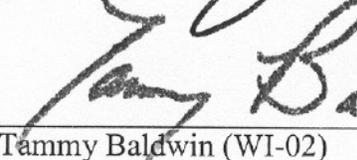

Tim Holden (PA-17)

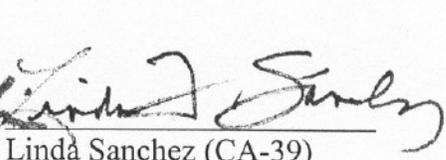

Paul Gillmor (OH-05)


Lee Terry (NE-02)


William Lipinski (IL-03)


Virgil Goode (VA-05)


Tammy Baldwin (WI-02)


Linda Sanchez (CA-39)