

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2011

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000


Dear Secretary Gates:

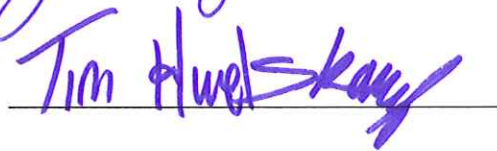
We were disturbed to learn that Chinese state run defense companies are considering bids for a number of U.S. defense contracts. As members of Congress charged with ensuring our war fighters are properly equipped, we hope you will consider our thoughts on this matter.

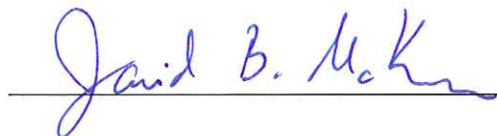
There are a number of concerns that arise when considering the procurement of military hardware from a state run foreign company, not the least of which is our long term national security. We are concerned with the growth in China's military technology, development of weapons systems like the DF-21D, that appears targeted at our carriers, as well as their unclear long-term strategic goals. Additionally, we feel it is unwise to allow a Chinese state run company to profit from our military needs and would put our defense supply chain in serious jeopardy in the event of a future sustained conflict. Further, we believe that allowing the Chinese government access, whether direct or indirect, to sensitive U.S. technologies during the development of military hardware could put our fighting men and women in danger in the future.

We hope you will consider our concerns as you move through the analysis of alternatives for current and future procurement programs. We look forward to partnering with the Department of Defense to protect our national interests in defense contracting.

Sincerely,













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