



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

OCT 20 2009

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-6250

Dear Madam Chairman:

Thank you for your September 10 letter to Secretary of Defense concerning the Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Company's responsibility as a potential recipient of a contract of supply food in the Middle East. I am responding on his behalf.

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is currently evaluating offers in response to its solicitation for delivery of subsistence to designated customers in Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait. No contract has yet been awarded, and DLA has been advised of your specific concerns. After all offers have been evaluated, if an offer from Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Company is determined to represent the best value to the government, the contracting officer, prior to making an award and with advice of counsel, will determine whether the firm is a responsible contractor. In doing so, the contracting officer will consider whether the firm has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics in light of all available information including the information you have provided. Please be assured that no award will be made to any firm unless the contracting officer is able to make the required affirmative determination of responsibility.

A similar letter has been sent to Senator Bennett.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashton B. Carter".

Ashton B. Carter



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The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-6250

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Ashton B. Carter