

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 6, 2007

The Honorable David M. Walker  
Comptroller General  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

We are writing to request that the Government Accountability Office conduct an investigation that would reassess body armor systems currently being issued by all the military services and the Special Operations Command for effectiveness and reliability against the threats facing our troops in combat.

Recent media reports suggest that alternative body armor systems, such as the Pinnacle Dragon Skin Body Armor, may offer better protection than the Interceptor Body Armor currently issued to our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. While the Army maintains that Dragon Skin failed military testing procedures, from the limited testing aired on national television over the weekend the Dragon Skin armor appears to have performed much better than the Army has previously indicated.

Ongoing assertions that potentially superior body armor is available, but not provided, to our troops are extremely troubling. Given the serious nature of these concerns, we believe an independent assessment is necessary to fully evaluate these claims. To this end, we respectfully request that the Government Accountability Office reassess the various body armor systems currently being employed by all branches of the armed forces and the Special Operations Command for effectiveness and reliability against the threats facing our troops in combat. The scope of this review should include:

- a comparison and testing of the Interceptor Body Armor system with other commercially available products, including the Pinnacle Dragon Skin Body Armor system, to determine if our troops are currently issued the best available body armor system;
- a full description and evaluation of current military testing processes as they relate to body armor to determine if the present procedures fairly and adequately test for conditions faced by today's war fighter, including: environmental factors, weight, mobility, resistance to weapons currently found in the field, and other relevant factors;
- a review of compliance and applicability of current body armor and "Safety-of-Use" policies prohibiting certain commercial body armor system across the conventional forces and special operations forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.  
Member of Congress



ROBERT E. ANDREWS  
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO  
Member of Congress



HANK JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER  
Member of Congress



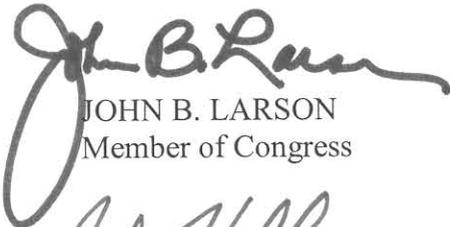
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
Member of Congress



JAMES R. LANGEVIN  
Member of Congress



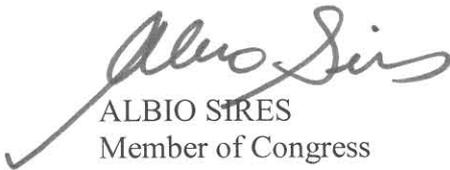
EARL POMEROY  
Member of Congress



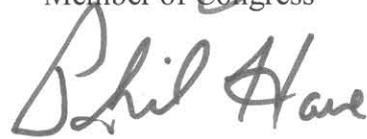
BETTY McCOLLUM  
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ALBIO SIRES  
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PHIL HARE  
Member of Congress



JIM McDERMOTT  
Member of Congress



DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



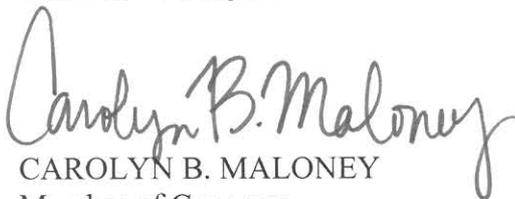
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS  
Member of Congress



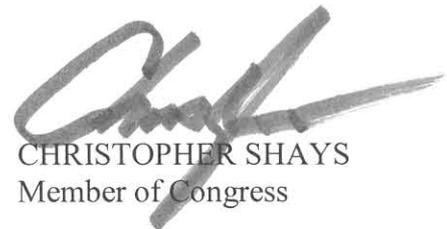
RUSH D. HOLT  
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CORRINE BROWN  
Member of Congress



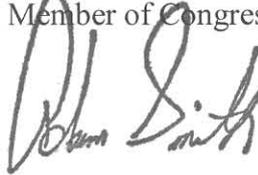
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
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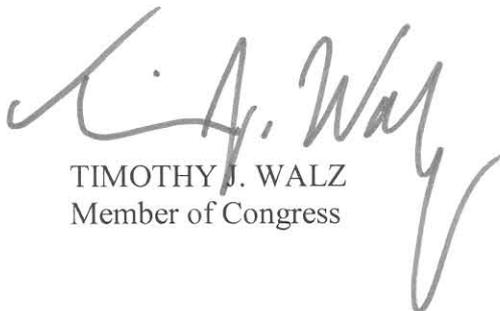
JOHN CONYERS, Jr.  
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TIMOTHY J. WALZ  
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