

United States Senate

May 26, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my concern over allegations that the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and U.S. Army may have contracted logistics services with an entity connected to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL).

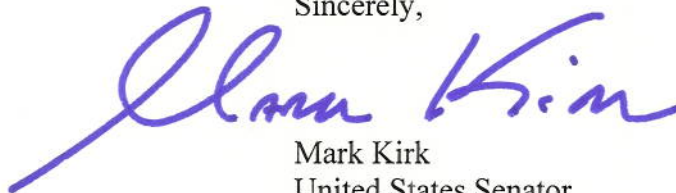
As you know, IRISL was designated by the Treasury Department pursuant to Executive Order 13382 in September 2008 for its provision of logistical services to Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, the arm of the Iranian military that oversees its ballistic missile program.

Open source information and evidence provided to my office suggest the Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL) – which was recently awarded a \$42 million sole-source contract by DLA and a \$750 million contract by the U.S. Army – has a history of ventures with the Iranian government and private sector entities, which helped operate the specific ports used for Iran's nuclear program and controlled ships designated by the U.S. Government. Furthermore, the evidence suggests a KGL joint venture partner company was designated by the U.S. Government for aiding Iran in evading sanctions and in its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

I am deeply concerned that the Department of Defense would contract the services of an entity with suspected ties to the Islamic Republic of Iran and that may have engaged in sanctionable activities under U.S. law. If true, such an entity should not be allowed to access U.S. military facilities or influence our supply lines.

I am attaching the open source information and evidence my office received to this letter. Thank you for your prompt review of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
United States Senator