



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

DEC 17 2009

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

I am writing to advise you of my serious concern over the prospect that fiscal year 2010 appropriations authority for the Department of Defense could expire by this Friday, December 18, 2009.

Should we face this unfortunate situation, it would result in serious a disruption in the worldwide activities of the Department of Defense and limit our ability to pay our workforce, including military forces.

It is inconceivable to me that such a situation would be permitted to occur with U.S. forces actively deployed in combat. Accordingly, I strongly urge the Congress to do what is necessary to ensure the Department has the needed resources to fully and appropriately continue its vital national mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Gates".



OSD 14071-09





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The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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