Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you know, Dr. Malcolm O'Neill recently resigned as the U.S. Army Assistant Secretary at the Office for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, ASA (ALT). As you search for a replacement for this important post, we ask that you consider certain criteria.

As members of the Illinois and Iowa Congressional Delegation who represent the Rock Island Arsenal, we believe that the best candidate for this position should have a strong understanding and appreciation of the Army's organic industrial base. Specifically, we would like the next ASA (ALT) to ensure our arsenals receive proper workload.

As the United States military begins to drawdown in Iraq and Afghanistan, we believe it is vital to maintain workload and labor skills at our arsenals. One of the ways this can be achieved is through the promotion of public/private partnerships, and our hope is that the ASA (ALT) will be a strong proponent of such partnership authority. The Army must also ensure that it utilizes the arsenals in such a way to preserve the readiness of their workforce and manufacturing capabilities. The next ASA (ALT) must ensure the arsenals receive the appropriate workload and that they are able to appropriately compete for work. Utilization of public/private partnerships, steady workload, and the ability to compete for contracts are critical to the Army's ability to maintain a strong organic manufacturing base and the unique manufacturing capabilities the arsenals provide. As our country continues to face emerging threats, our arsenals must continue to play a critical role in defense of the warfighter. As we work on policies to strengthen and solidify the arsenals, we strongly urge you to nominate someone who will support these efforts within ASA (ALT).

In addition to supporting and understanding the Army's organic industrial base, the next ASA (ALT) should have a strong background in government procurement. Strong preference should also be given to someone who has experience as a Division Commander in one of the Services. Finally, any potential candidate should be a supporter and champion of small business.

Thank you for considering these criteria. We look forward to working with you to strengthen workload at our arsenals.

Sincerely,

Bobby Schilling
United States Representative

Chuck Grassley
United States Senator

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Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Dick Durbin
United States Senator

Mark Kirk
United States Senator

Bruce Braley
United States Representative

Dave Loebsack
United States Representative