

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Heidi Shyu
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology
103 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Shyu:

The Army recently issued a request for proposal on a multi-year acquisition of approximately 240 AH-64 Apache helicopters from FY 2017 to FY 2021. In structuring this acquisition, we urge you to avoid foreign sourcing of key Block III components and ensure a qualified domestic manufacturer is available to guarantee stable sourcing throughout the service life of the program.

Foreign sourcing costs American jobs and threatens the vitality of the domestic defense industrial base. Last year alone, the Department of Defense spent over \$1.3 billion on foreign airframes, aircraft engines and other aircraft equipment. Given the number of times that the Buy American Act is waived or an authorized exception is used in defense contracts, we are concerned that unfettered continuation of this trend will cost vital American jobs and weaken our domestic defense industrial base. Maintaining a strong domestic base protects American jobs and ensures stable sourcing of critical components.

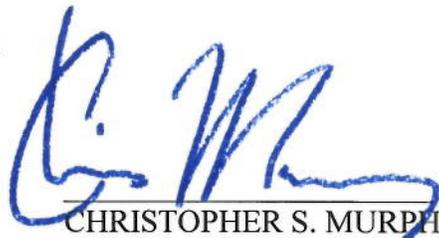
Qualified domestic sources guarantee stability throughout the life of the Apache acquisition program. In 2013, after the foreign sole source supplier of AH-64 transmissions lost its ability to maintain required production levels, the Army resorted to removing transmissions from existing aircraft for installation in units coming off the assembly line. These circumstances reinforce the necessity of a vibrant domestic industrial base that is able to timely supply major Apache components and precision components for the duration of the contract.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We look forward to working with you to increase the utilization of American made components in the Army's aviation fleet.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate