THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 13, 2009

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

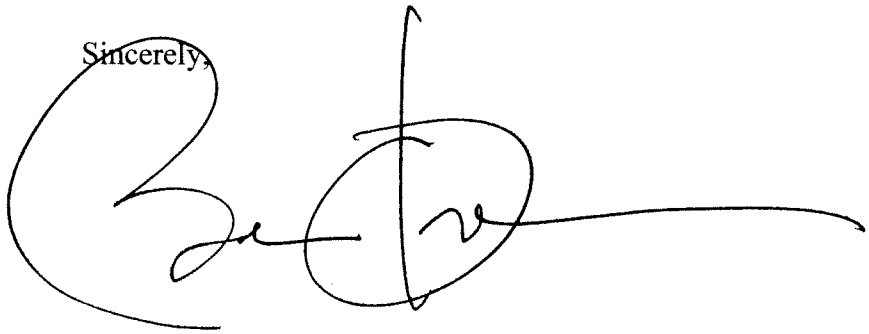
I share with you a deep commitment to protecting our Nation and the men and women who serve it in the Armed Forces. Your leadership on national security is unrivaled, and I value your counsel on these matters.

It is with this in mind that I am writing to you about S. 1390, the Senate Armed Services Committee-reported National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, and in particular to convey my strong support for terminating procurement of additional F-22 fighter aircraft when the current multiyear procurement contract ends. As Secretary Gates and the military leadership have determined, we do not need these planes. That is why I will veto any bill that supports acquisition of F-22s beyond the 187 already funded by Congress.

In December 2004, the Department of Defense (DoD) determined that 183 F-22s would be sufficient to meet its military needs. This determination was not made casually. The Department conducted several analyses which support this position based on the length and type of wars that the Department thinks it might have to fight in the future, and an estimate of the future capabilities of likely adversaries. To continue to procure additional F-22s would be to waste valuable resources that should be more usefully employed to provide our troops with the weapons that they actually do need.

I urge you to approve our request to end the production of F-22.

Sincerely,



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The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
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