

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 11, 2001

The Honorable Robert Byrd
Chairman, Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member, Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Stevens:


As you know, we continue to object to the provision in the Fiscal Year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations bill that would authorize and fund the leasing of Boeing 767 commercial aircraft to the Air Force.

We understand, however, that you will carry the Gramm/McCain amendment -- that gives the President sole authority to reprogram funds authorized for multi-year leasing -- through to the conference agreement on the Fiscal Year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations bill. Without the Gramm/McCain language, we will strongly oppose inclusion of the Boeing 767 leasing provision in the final conference report.

We appreciate your continued commitment to the agreement we reached on this issue.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator


Phil Gramm
United States Senator

JM/cjp