

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 11, 2001

The Honorable Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, #252  
Washington, D.C. 20503

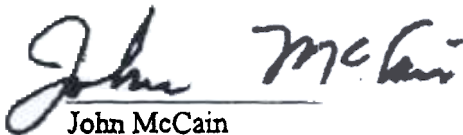
Dear Mitch:

As you know, the Senate Appropriations Committee was successful in including a costly provision regarding leasing Boeing 767 commercial aircraft and converting them to tankers for the Air Force. In our view, this legislative provision – not requested in the President's Budget – puts the Air Force at risk of being unable to procure higher priority items that have been discussed at length and presented in formal testimony at hearings in the Committee on Armed Services, the President's Budget Request, the Air Force Chief of Staff's Unfunded Priority List and the Air Force's long-term procurement plan.

Given our opposition to this provision and our serious concerns as to how this matter came about, we ask that you provide us a detailed cost of the Boeing 767 commercial aircraft conversion to tanker provision in the Senate passed Fiscal Year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations bill.

Furthermore, attached is a letter we sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee relating to the Fiscal Year 2002 DoD Appropriations bill. We respectfully request that you recommend to the President that he veto the underlying bill unless the Gramm/McCain amendment – that gives the President sole authority to reprogram funds authorized for multi-year leasing – is included in the final conference report.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senator



Phil Gramm  
United States Senator

JM/cjp