

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As you are aware, the U.S. Air Force is currently attempting to procure a Light Air Support (LAS) aircraft. We respectfully request you notify our offices of your intent to obligate funds for the Light Air Support program.

We are keenly aware of the billions of dollars invested by the U.S. Air Force and Navy fleets in T-6 trainer aircraft built and supported by Hawker Beechcraft Defense Company (HBDC) and its U.S. supply chain. The long successful history with Air Force and Navy trainer fleets enabled HBDC to submit a competitive LAS proposal leveraging existing logistics, support, and pilot training investments already made by the United States Government.

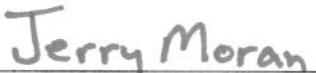
However, after a year-long process in which HBDC worked closely with Air Force contracting to ensure all requirements were met, the Air Force excluded HBDC from the competition. Prior to the exclusion, the LAS contract was a closely fought contest between the American-owned Hawker Beechcraft Corporation's AT-6C and the Brazilian-owned Embraer S.A.'s Super Tucano. It appears that HBDC's exclusion leaves only a single offeror, Embraer S.A., which is currently under investigation by the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission for violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

We believe the Air Force must be completely transparent and forthright regarding this competition. If the funding to be obligated requires advance notification to House and Senate Committees with oversight of the Department of Defense, we respectfully request you notify our offices at the same time.

Sincerely,



Senator Pat Roberts



Senator Jerry Moran



Congressman Mike Pompeo