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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

March 16, 2011

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The Honorable Rob Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
1317 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Cooper
U.S. House of Representatives
1536 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Cooper:

As you know, the committee continues to be concerned about policies and procedures governing detainees at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. In particular, the committee is concerned with status review procedures, prosecution protocols, long-term detention authority, security protocols, and transfer issues. Subjects pertaining to detainees at Guantanamo Bay have important implications for our national security. Detention policies are shaped by two central objectives: ensuring terrorists who may return to threaten our security are not released and those who remain at Guantanamo Bay are afforded a process that is both fair and considered credible by the international community.

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is the appropriate venue to conduct an in-depth, long-term, bipartisan investigation focused on detainee affairs, including a close look at transfer practices and procedures. Ideally, an investigation should consider the circumstances and mechanisms for post-transfer security measures and assurances for humane treatment for those transferred from Guantanamo Bay. We expect this inquiry will require evaluation of material held by the Department of Defense. We would also like the subcommittee to review information held by other executive branch agencies as well as to conduct interviews and meetings with a wide range of current and past policy makers and respective staff from across the executive branch.

We ask that you undertake the investigation as described in cooperation with the Department of Defense and other agencies as necessary. We request that you convey a

Chairman Wittman and Representative Cooper
March 11, 2011
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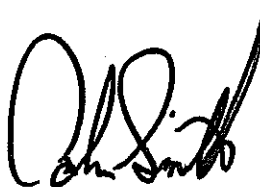
comprehensive written report, including evaluations of past practices and recommendations for the future, to the committee by November 30, 2011.

We appreciate your assistance on this vitally important matter, and your continued commitment to our national defense.

Sincerely,



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman



Adam Smith
Ranking Minority Member

HPM/AS:map