

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0508

Dear Madam Speaker:

Reforming the existing U.S. export control system is critical to our success in overcoming the myriad of threats that we face today in the modern global economy. The current system poses a potential national security risk because its structure is overly complicated and runs the risk of being insufficiently focused on the most critical threats. Incremental change is no longer sufficient, and fundamental reform has become a necessity.

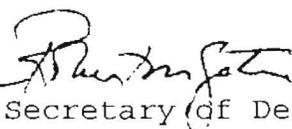
Accordingly, on August 13, 2009, the President directed the National Economic Council and the National Security Council to jointly lead an interagency process for reviewing the current U.S. export control system, including the dual-use and defense trade policies and processes.

To conduct the review, the Administration created a small dedicated task force of interagency export control experts. This task force is currently analyzing inputs from a variety of sources in order to identify a broad range of reforms for the Administration's consideration.

Tackling fundamental reform requires coordination and consultation with Congress. We are eager to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss the initiative and the principles on which reform should be based. We have an exciting opportunity to reform an antiquated system that no longer serves our foreign policy priorities, our national security interests, or our economy. We look forward to working with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,


Secretary of State


Secretary of Defense


Secretary of Commerce

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives