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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1601

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
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BUDGET COMMITTEE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

March 19, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Panetta,

In follow up to your appearance at the February 29, 2012 hearing before the House Budget Committee, please respond to the questions listed below.

1. You stated during questioning that the Department of Defense is not planning for the sequester because, "The position of OMB was that we are not to plan for a sequester at this time, and that is the direction we have been given, and that is what we are doing." Is it the policy of the White House to ignore the Budget Control Act that the President signed in August 2011?
2. Would it be fair to characterize your testimony as stating that there are no contingency plans in place should a sequester take place? If not, are there any memos or notes from meetings where such contingency plans were discussed? Please provide my office with copies of any notes, memos or formal plans.

Please feel free to contact my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress

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