

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

With the likelihood that a US invasion of Iraq is imminent, we are writing to seek greater candor about the challenges facing our nation. As members of the US Congress, we are unable to responsibly discharge our own constitutional responsibilities, because the White House has not been even minimally forthcoming about the projected cost and consequences of US military action against Iraq.

In particular, we share the frustrations expressed this week by our colleagues – from both sides of the partisan aisle -- on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We are deeply disturbed by reports that the Administration is already negotiating substantial contracts for the reconstruction of Iraq. It appears that Administration officials are working with selected corporate leaders, while deflecting related questions in public.

Accordingly, we request the following information:

**Cost of Invading and Occupying Iraq** – What is your Administration’s estimate of the total cost of invading Iraq, including, but not limited to (a) moving our armed forces to the Middle East (b) military operations (c) providing humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people (d) occupying and securing the long-term stability of Iraq and (e) rebuilding Iraq?

**Coalition Membership** – Please list each country that your Administration considers a member of the “coalition of the willing” that supports an invasion of Iraq. For each country, list the (a) number of soldiers this country will provide and what duties they will perform (b) the total amount, in dollars, this country will contribute to the costs of invading and rebuilding Iraq and (c) details and the total cost of the package of grants, loans, and all other enticements used to obtain this country’s consent.

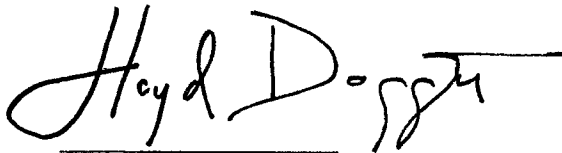
We appreciate that cost is not the only – or even necessarily the most important – consideration in the context of safeguarding national security. However, particularly given the economic distress resulting in the loss of two million jobs in the last two years, we need to know more about the burden that may be facing the American taxpayer.

Our allies underwrote most of the cost of the first Gulf War. It seems clear they will not do so again. In 1990, we fought beside 160,000 troops -- nearly a quarter of the total military force -- from Britain, France, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria. Our coalition partners picked up nearly 90 percent of the war's cost. Clearly, we do not now enjoy this level of support.

In times of war, Americans have always understood the need for collective and personal sacrifice. The Administration's message at this critical juncture, however, is that neither American taxpayers -- nor their elected representatives -- can be trusted with even a rough sketch of what may be required over the weeks, months and years to come.

We urge you to respond to these concerns before any conflict begins, rather than withhold cost projections until US forces are already committed in battle. We respectfully submit this can help restore our constituents' confidence in government's responsiveness at a moment of such historical gravity; and look forward to your prompt reply to these specific questions.

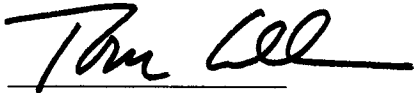
Sincerely,



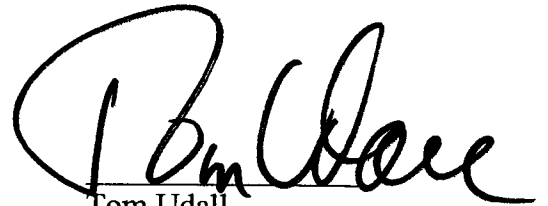
Lloyd Doggett



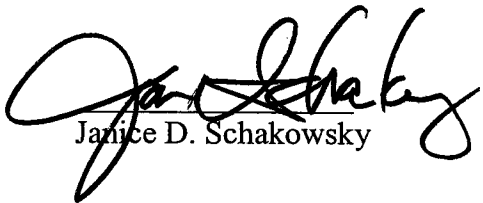
William D. Delahunt



Thomas H. Allen



Tom Udall



Janice D. Schakowsky



Hilda L. Solis



Carolyn Kilpatrick