

DONALD A. MANZULLO
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1316

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September 8, 2009

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington D.C.

Dear Under Secretary Carter,

I am writing on behalf of a constituent business owner, Mr. Tom Carlton, of Infrastructure Defense Technologies (IDT) who has informed me that his firm recently lost a contract award for solicitation SPM8E6-08-R-0061, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, (DSCP) to provide 'expeditionary earth filled protective barriers, in support of our military operations overseas. IDT provides the 'Metalith' protective barrier, manufactured in Belvidere, Illinois.

It is my understanding that although the DSCP rated the IDT Metalith product as superior in performance with regard to protecting our troops, the contract was still awarded to a foreign supplier (HESCO, Leeds, England) based solely on their lower priced proposal. Please see the attached background information on this solicitation.

I am very concerned about the impact this contract award decision will have on our force protection efforts in the Afghanistan, and Iraq theatre of operations. According to IDT, it appears that that DSCP did not take into consideration the life cycle cost of the British product which would add considerably to the overall pricing structure of their proposal. IDT has filed a formal protest with the Government Accounting Office.

As you recall, a similar mistake was made when the Defense Department (DoD) did not take into account the lifetime cost of the Air Force aerial refueling tanker contract and initially awarded that to the European Airbus coalition. I fear that a similar pattern is being repeated in this case and you have the opportunity to personally review this matter before it becomes another embarrassment to the DoD.

At a time when our economy, and our manufacturing sector in the United States is struggling to recover, it is important to source from American firms that offer the best capabilities to perform on a government contract, as well as the best overall evaluated price structure for government procurement needs. Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in getting a full explanation from the Defense Logistics Agency as to why the decision was made to award this contract to a

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foreign firm, that utilizes no U.S. content, that will have to be replaced continuously and does not provide the highest level of protection for our men and women serving our nation overseas.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald A. Manzullo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'M'.

Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress
16th District of Illinois