

DANA ROHRBACHER

46th District, California

Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairman, Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations

Subcommittee on the
Middle East and South Asia

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Subcommittee on
Space and Aeronautics

Subcommittee on
Energy and Environment



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 29, 2012

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Gen. Raymond E. Johns, Jr., USAF
Commander, Air Mobility Command
402 Scott Dr. Unit 3 EC
Scott AFB, IL 62225-5310

Dear General Johns:

Last month, we met at the Mobility Air Force Caucus Launch Breakfast and discussed a new and exciting concept that I have been interested in for some time. The Precision Container Aerial Delivery System, or PCADS, offers an innovative approach to extinguishing wildfires by allowing specially-designed biodegradable bladders encased in cardboard to be loaded into the back of military cargo aircraft. The bladders, which can be filled with water or retardant, are then dropped out of the back of the plane like any other cargo. The containers are specially designed to burst open before impact and accurately disburse water or retardant directly onto the wildfire.

Now that PCADS has completed its first phase of testing (design validation), it is now ripe for a transition into operational testing. Shortly before you and I last spoke in February, Congressmen Ken Calvert (CA-44) and Trent Franks (AZ-02) joined me in sending a letter to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Mr. Zachary Lemnios, asking him to allocate \$2.58 million for this second phase of funding. Knowing that the request is still being considered by Mr. Lemnios, I wanted to make you aware of our letter should you have an interest in expressing support for PCADS to the Assistant Secretary.

Importantly, this concept is consistent with the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard's existing requirements to assist in firefighting. By enabling us to get greater use out of existing federal assets, I sincerely believe that this approach promises to reduce firefighting costs in the future while simultaneously increasing our firefighting capabilities. For states like mine and so many others that experience devastating wildfires on an annual basis, PCADS holds the key to much-needed relief.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to learn about PCADS. Any support you would like to lend to our efforts would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Rohrabacher".

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress