



LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1300

FEB 7 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I am pleased to provide you with the Department of Defense's response to your staff's January 23, 2007 request for policy guidance with regard to airlift support for your travel.

We will support your requested travel consistent with title 31 of the United States Code (Section 1108(g)) and the CODEL travel rules of the 110th Congress. Further, we will provide Presidentially-directed shuttle support as a courtesy in recognition of your position as the Speaker of the House, and consistent with that support provided to previous Speakers of the House. Since the plan for continuity of the Presidency does not include routine use of military airlift for the Speaker of the House, this support is provided without any specific basis to your standing as a Presidential successor or position in the line of succession.

This shuttle support will be limited to airlift between your home district and Washington D.C. While every effort will always be made to provide non-stop shuttle support, such support is subject to aircraft type and availability and therefore may not always be guaranteed. Aircraft assigned to these missions will accommodate between 7 and not more than 10 passengers, depending on aircraft type and availability.

Also, upon your written request, on a trip by trip basis, we will support travel of your immediate family members on these shuttle missions. Your family will be required to provide reimbursement to the Treasury of the United States at the rate determined by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct but not less than unrestricted coach fare for airfare and for all meals or incidental expenses (to exclude travel of your husband, who may travel for official protocol purposes when accompanying you). Non-U.S. government travelers, other than your immediate family, will not be authorized.

As with previous Speakers, we cannot support expenditure of DoD resources for your travel to or from political events. DoD support for travel to other official events must be in accordance with title 31 of the United States Code (Section 1108(g)) and the CODEL travel rules of the 110th Congress. With regard to travel of other Members of Congress (including Members of the California Congressional delegation) on these shuttle missions, we will need a written advisory opinion on eligibility and reimbursement, issued by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the Committee on House Administration before we can support travel of other Members of Congress on your Presidentially-directed shuttle missions.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for us to clarify these rules. We look forward to working closely with you and your staff during the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. L. Wilkie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "W".

Robert L. Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Legislative Affairs)