

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2002

Brigadier General N. Ross Thompson
Commanding General
United States Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command
6501 East 11 Mile Road
Warren, Michigan 48397-5000

Dear General Thompson:

I am writing to thank you for your prompt reply to my requests for information regarding the United States Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command's (TACOM) research and development execution plan for the Aluminum Mesh Fuel Tank Liner program, and to request additional information about the program.

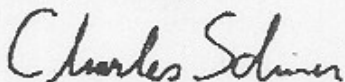
In your letters of response, you have outlined an execution plan for the \$7.5 million of FY01 funding appropriated for the aluminum mesh program. In accordance with the execution plan that you have described, I have taken steps to have \$2.85 million of the original \$7.5 million reallocated to Research, Development, Test and Evaluation funding in order to carry out suitability testing on the aluminum mesh.

In order to proceed further with the execution plan, I respectfully request that you undertake the necessary steps to direct the remaining \$4.65 million of FY01 funding to the Other Procurement Army Non-tactical Vehicle funding line. This is the program line that provides funding for fire trucks, rescue vehicles, armored sedans/SUVs, and other vehicles. Also, I would greatly appreciate being provided with updates on the progress and results of the aluminum mesh suitability testing as such information becomes available.

Due to the ability of aluminum mesh fuel tank liners to protect American troops from unnecessary injuries and fatalities, I continue to be strongly supportive of the program. As such, it is my sincere hope that the development and execution of the necessary test protocols for tactical and non-tactical vehicles can take place as soon as possible.

I thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate