

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2002

Dr. Dan Crippen  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dr. Crippen:

The Congress will soon be called upon to consider a request from the President to approve U.S. military action against Iraq. The potential budgetary costs of such action are relevant to Congressional consideration of such a request.

Therefore, we request that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provide an estimate of the range of potential costs associated with U.S. military action against Iraq, including follow-on security forces and reconstruction efforts. The estimate should be constructed and displayed in full recognition of the many significant uncertainties that currently exist regarding how a military campaign against Iraq might unfold, and what stabilization and reconstruction might entail.

To inform deliberations in the coming weeks, CBO should provide its results to the Committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD  
Chairman  
Senate Budget Committee



JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.  
Ranking Member  
House Budget Committee