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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0905

March 22, 2012

Secretary Leon Panetta  
Secretary of the Department of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta,

I am writing you today on behalf of the taxpayers of Florida's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to express my disappointment with the Department of Defense's (DoD's) decision to construct a 28,000 square foot recreational field for the detainees being held at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo detention camp. At a reported cost of \$744,000, this unnecessary expenditure sends the wrong message to the hardworking American taxpayers who financed this project. It just continues to show how out of touch Washington bureaucrats are from the reality of our nation's current economic situation.

My House Republican colleagues and I have been working to rein in the out of control spending in Washington so that we can afford to support our federal government's core mission. As a result, many domestic programs have had to be reduced or eliminated.

That's why I find it all the more difficult to understand why we can build soccer fields for detained enemies of this nation while we simultaneously are cutting funding for schools and, as a result, their athletic programs back home.

Moving forward, you can be sure that I will oppose any future plans by the DoD to spend their congressionally appropriated funding in this manner.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Nugent  
Member of Congress