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March 15, 2012

The Honorable Ray Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus:

Last week, soon after I provided you with the pathology report and video pertaining to Marine Corps Sergeant Rafael Peralta, the availability of additional video content was brought to my attention. This information—along with the service identification numbers for the video—was provided to my staff, which communicated with the combat cameraman who was on the scene with Sergeant Peralta and his fellow Marines in Fallujah. I am providing you a copy of this video.

It also came to my attention that the review process has been initiated. This video, when considered alongside the other evidence previously unavailable to investigators, provides additional details of the incident, the reactions of several Marines, and movement to recover Sergeant Peralta. The video also provides a much clearer picture of Sergeant Peralta's left leg, showing no injury or damage to the left leg or left knee. This information should be helpful to your ongoing review.

When considering the reasons why Sergeant Peralta was denied the Medal of Honor by former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, the information I have personally reviewed—including witness testimony, photo and video evidence, and medical findings—reaffirm the Marine Corps' initial investigation and nomination. Sergeant Peralta gave his life to protect his fellow Marines and, for his sacrifice, he deserves the Medal of Honor.

After reviewing the video, please don't hesitate to contact me personally should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Duncan Hunter". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress