



United States Senate

January 23, 2019

The Honorable Heather Wilson
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Wilson:

I write today to request information pertaining to the operation and maintenance of privatized military housing at Travis and Vandenberg Air Force bases.

As you know, 100% of the Air Force's on-base military housing in California is operated by private entities, with Balfour Beatty Corporation operating the majority of those homes.

There were anticipated advantages to the Department of Defense in utilizing private contractors to renovate and sustain an ageing stock of government-owned military housing when Congress first approved the privatization initiative more than twenty years ago. However, today, recent public reports have indicated that the private contractors charged with ensuring that our servicemembers and their families have safe housing are failing to do so in some instances.

According to a recent investigation conducted by *Reuters*, Airmen and their families living at select bases have been forced to endure rodent and insect infestations, water leaks, mold blooms, and other frustrations of poor construction and maintenance.

The *Reuters* articles describe military officials unable or unwilling to intervene on behalf of our servicemembers, and private contractors who either blamed servicemembers for the poor state of their housing or otherwise failed to remedy serious health and safety hazards.

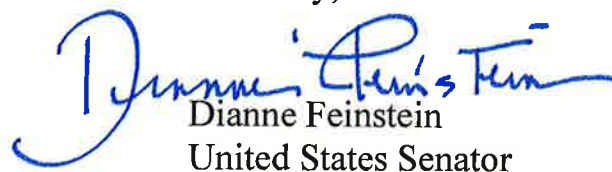
I found the details of the *Reuters* investigation horrifying and unacceptable, and strongly believe the military must do all that it can to ensure our servicemembers live in housing free of environmental or health hazards.

To that end, I request:

- 1) Copies of the contracts—with the appropriate redaction of competition-sensitive information—currently in place at Travis and Vandenberg Air Force base.
- 2) Copies of the service or department-level guidance and policy documents that relate directly to contracting for on-base privatized housing.
- 3) Copies of the standard operating procedures for responding to and rectifying mold/mildew and other habitability, safety, and health complaints in government-owned housing.
- 4) Any information on whether cure notices were sent to Balfour Beatty Corporation for failure to adhere to their contractual obligations at Travis or Vandenberg Air Force base.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/cg