

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 28, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives  
235 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

We write to request a full hearing before Congress regarding the potential risks, costs, and national security imperatives of any US military intervention in Syria before the US engages in any kind of military action in the region.

As stated in the War Powers Resolution of 1973, absent a Congressional declaration of war or authorization for the use of military force, the President as Commander-in-Chief has constitutional power to engage the US armed forces in hostilities only in the case of a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces. As none of these criteria have been met, we believe it is Congress's right and responsibility to be fully briefed on any potential plans to engage in military action in Syria and to assess whether or not such action would be in the national security interest of the United States and our allies.

Respected leaders and strategists in our armed services, as well as experts on Syria and the region, have raised serious questions regarding the ultimate effectiveness and long-term impact of a US military intervention in the Syrian conflict. They have also highlighted the potential unintended and counterproductive consequences of a US strike that could negatively impact not only the Syrian people but also our allies in the region. At the very least, Congress must carefully weigh these considerations before any military intervention is undertaken.

As we have learned from the past decade, at the initiation of hostilities, the costs of US military interventions abroad are often underestimated and the benefits overstated. We should not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Sincerely,



John Garamendi  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Walter Jones  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS