

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We strongly urge you to consult with Congress and to obtain Congressional authorization before ordering the use of military force in Syria.

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, to assess whether such an intervention is in the national security interest of the United States and our allies, and to withhold or grant authorization for the use of military force based on this assessment.

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. 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