

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2011

Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-0004

Dear Mr. President:

We urge a significant and sizable reduction of U.S. military forces in Afghanistan beginning July 2011. With Osama bin Laden killed and Al Qaeda largely driven from Afghanistan, it is time to accelerate the transfer of security responsibilities to the Government of Afghanistan and to reduce the U.S. military footprint there.

In the wake of the horrific September 11th attacks, the U.S. resolved to eliminate terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and to bring those who would harm innocent civilians to justice. Our troops have fought bravely, and now fewer than 100 Al Qaeda operatives are estimated to remain in Afghanistan. The recent killing of Osama bin Laden, for which you and members of our military and intelligence communities should be commended, is the capstone of that initial mission.

International terrorist networks remain a grave threat to the United States, as Al Qaeda affiliates now have a significant presence in countries like Yemen, Somalia, and Pakistan. But maintaining anywhere near 100,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan is not an effective means of combating a global and decentralized enemy.

Our economic vitality is a crucial component of our national security. The nearly decade-long war in Afghanistan drains our resources, even as we face serious economic challenges at home. To date, we have spent nearly half a trillion dollars on the Afghan war, and that price tag increases by \$10 billion every month we remain. When we calculate the long-term costs of this war, including servicing our debt and caring for our veterans, the dollar figures are almost inconceivable. These funds are needed for rebuilding our own economy, reducing the deficit and generating jobs for Americans.

Ultimately, this war will end not on the battlefield but through political negotiations. As we scale down our military operations in Afghanistan we need to continue our diplomatic efforts, pushing for a negotiated settlement that includes the Government of Afghanistan and other parties interested in establishing peace and stability.

The American public is weary of a war with no end in sight, and we call upon you to bring the longest war in our nation's history to a close. Beginning in July of this year, we urge a swift, significant and sizable drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

John Hummer John R Barbara Lee

Walter B. Jones Jim Inhofe T. V. Iwan

Pete Welch Ron Paul George Miller

John Dingell Lamar Smith Pete Stark

David Price Tim Wirth Al Franken

Ben Rayburn Kurt Schrader Tim Wirth

Steve L. Breyer Michael H. McCarroll Michael Nutter

Nicki Vargas

Paul Blum

Judy Ann

Dave Lusk

Paul M. Jipta

Michael E. Caputo

Chella R

Pat Hippi

Jayna Pugh

John W. Olson

Sam Lane

Keith Ellis

Yvette D. Clarke

Mr. Loh

Marcia L. Judge

Rosa DeLamo

Reuel Jackson

Bud Fish

Dennis J. Kravich

Gregory T. Cortez

Mark White

Leucold Nadler

David S. Lewis

Tommy

Charles B. Rangel Lynn Woolley Barney Frank

Donald M. Payne Phil V. Canale Carly B. Maloy

Joe E. Sweeney John L. Gonsky Hansen Clarke

Jim Moran Daniel M. Claitor Linda J. Green
