

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

We strongly oppose the Department of Defense's (DoD) recently signed contract with the Russian state arms dealer Rosoboronexport to supply 30 additional Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The signing of the contract blatantly ignores the intent of Congress which was reaffirmed with the bipartisan vote by the House of Representatives, 423-0, seeking to end DoD's business relationship with Rosoboronexport. It also appears ill advised in light of a recent Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) report critical of the purchase.

As you know, Russia serves as the main arms supplier to Syria providing weapons the regime is using to fuel a tragic war in that country that has thus far claimed at least 93,000 lives. Even as Rosoboronexport was providing weapons to the Syrian regime last year, DoD entered into no-bid contracts to purchase Mi-17 helicopters for the ANSF from the firm.

In response, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112-239) and the 2013 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-6) prohibiting 2013 funds from being used to enter into contracts with Rosoboronexport. The Department of Defense is maneuvering around the law and using Fiscal Year 2012 Afghanistan Security Forces Funds to enter into this new contract.

That is why the House of Representatives passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 to strengthen the prohibition on DoD contracts with Rosoboronexport. The amendment granted you a national security waiver allowing you to purchase equipment from the Russian arms dealer so long as you submit a report to Congress 30 days prior to any such purchase.

That report requires you to provide Congress with information that we now respectfully request you provide by responding with the following:

1. An explanation of why it is in the national security interest of the United States to purchase equipment from Rosoboronexport;

2. An explanation why comparable equipment cannot be purchased from another corporation;
3. An assessment of the cooperation of Rosoboronexport with the Defense Contract Audit Agency;
4. An assessment of whether and how many S-300 advanced anti-aircraft missiles have been delivered to the Assad regime by Rosoboronexport; and
5. A list of the contracts that Rosoboronexport has signed with the Assad regime since January 1, 2013.

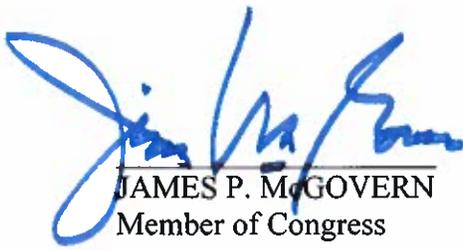
In addition, the SIGAR report, *Afghan Special Mission Wing: DOD Plans to Spend \$908 Million to Build Air Wing that the Afghans Cannot Operate and Maintain*, questions “the wisdom of moving ahead with the provision of 30 new Mi-17s.” The report notes that DoD’s massive \$908 million financial investment, including the Mi-17 purchases, in the Afghan Specialty Mission Wing (SMW) is moving forward even though the Afghans have not yet agreed to NATO’s concept for reorganization within the Afghan government to support the SMW and even with a lack of planning to transfer critical maintenance and logistics functions to the Afghans. Accordingly, we also respectfully request that you provide justification for procuring 30 additional Mi-17 helicopters despite the inability of the SMW to use them.

We firmly believe that DoD should not purchase helicopters or any other equipment from Russia as it continues to arm Assad’s regime. Moreover, it is unconscionable that American taxpayers are subsidizing a company that is complicit in atrocities occurring in Syria.

We look forward to your prompt response.

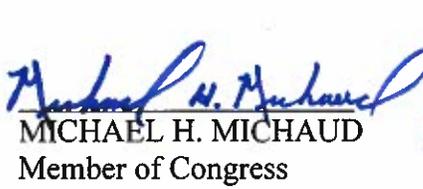
Sincerely,

 <u>ROSA L. DeLAURO</u> Member of Congress	 <u>KAY GRANGER</u> Member of Congress	 <u>JAMES P. MORAN</u> Member of Congress
 <u>JACK KINGSTON</u> Member of Congress	 <u>KEITH ELLISON</u> Member of Congress	 <u>FRANK R. WOLF</u> Member of Congress


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Member of Congress

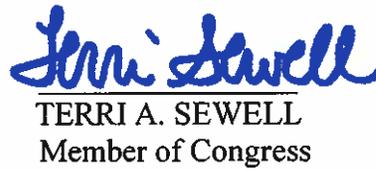

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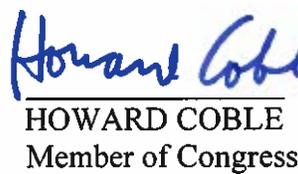

BETTY McCOLLUM
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ALAN NUNNELEE
Member of Congress

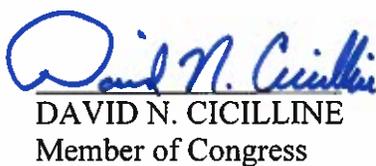

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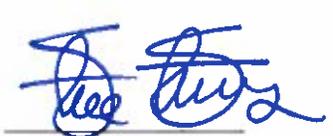

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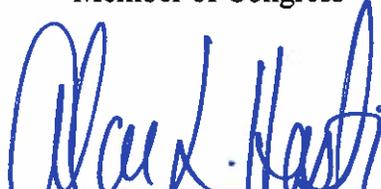

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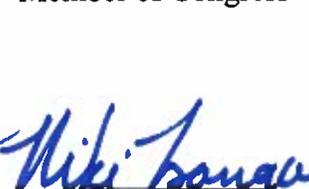

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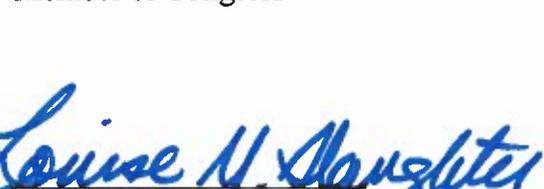

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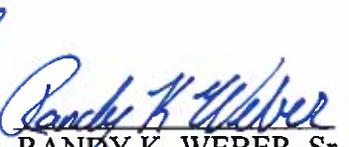

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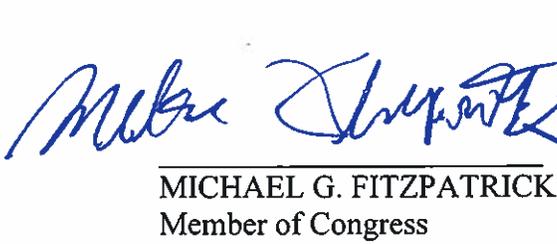

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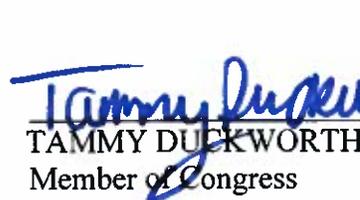

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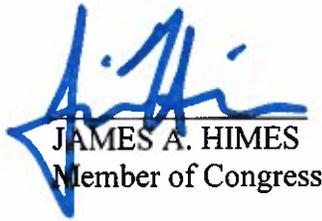

JOE COURTNEY
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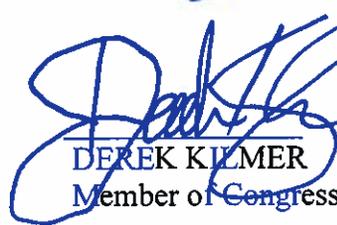

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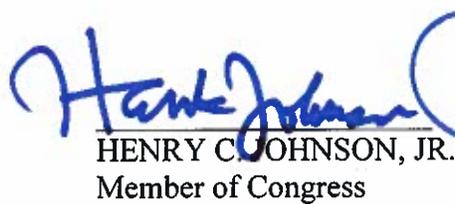

DEREK KILMER
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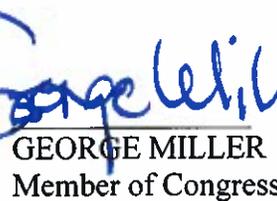

ANN McLANE KUSTER
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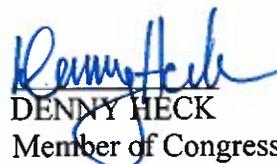

MARTHA ROBY
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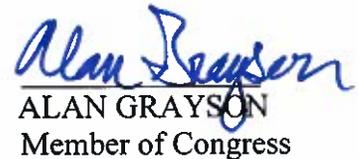

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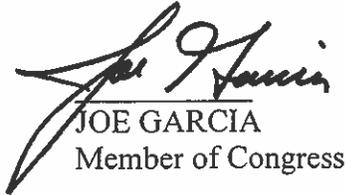

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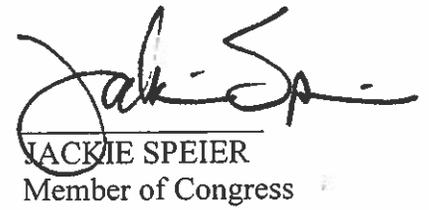

DANIEL T. KILDEE
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DENNY HECK
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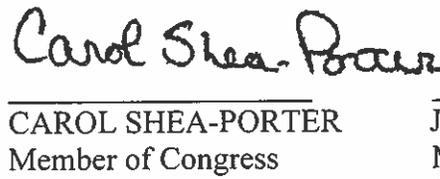

ALAN GRAYSON
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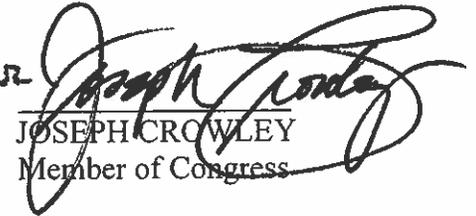

JOE GARCIA
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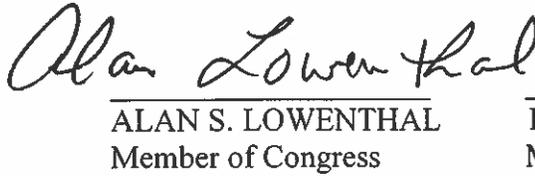

COLLEEN W. HANABUSA
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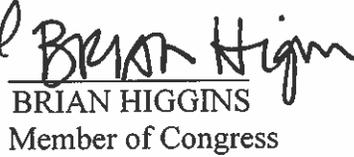

JACKIE SPEIER
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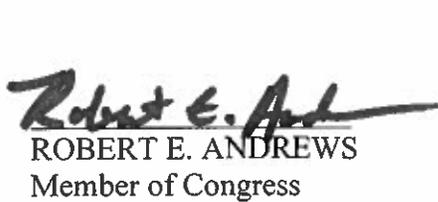

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
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JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress

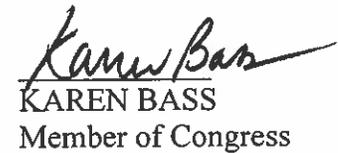

ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
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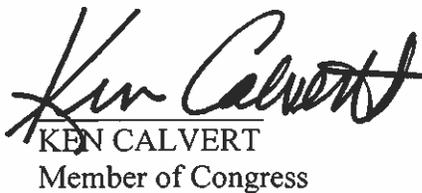

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