

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2013

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We strongly urge you to consult and receive authorization from Congress before ordering the use of U.S. military force in Syria. Your responsibility to do so is prescribed in the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

While the Founders wisely gave the Office of the President the authority to act in emergencies, they foresaw the need to ensure public debate – and the active engagement of Congress – prior to committing U.S. military assets. Engaging our military in Syria when no direct threat to the United States exists and without prior congressional authorization would violate the separation of powers that is clearly delineated in the Constitution.

Mr. President, in the case of military operations in Libya you stated that authorization from Congress was not required because our military was not engaged in “hostilities.” In addition, an April 1, 2011, memorandum to you from your Office of Legal Counsel concluded:

“...President Obama could rely on his constitutional power to safeguard the national interest by directing the anticipated military operations in Libya—which were limited in their nature, scope, and duration—without prior congressional authorization.”

We view the precedent this opinion sets, where “national interest” is enough to engage in hostilities without congressional authorization, as unconstitutional. If the use of 221 Tomahawk cruise missiles, 704 Joint Direct Attack Munitions, and 42 Predator Hellfire missiles expended in Libya does not constitute “hostilities,” what does?

If you deem that military action in Syria is necessary, Congress can reconvene at your request. We stand ready to come back into session, consider the facts before us, and share the burden of decisions made regarding U.S. involvement in the quickly escalating Syrian conflict.

Sincerely,

Barry Kiger

K. Yahn

Jack R. Lipton

Steve Pan

Joe Felt

John G. Zeno

Minut McCard

Randy Harty

Arthur. Polaris

Chm Stewart

Brett Guthrie

Mr. Gahr

Long Andrew

Sam Sam

Gregg Harper

Candice S. Miller

Ted S. York

Elizabeth H. Estey

Luke Messer

Paul A. Ham

Richard Hudson

Tom Graves

Don Barletta

Doug Collins GA-9

Mr. [Signature]

Mr. Brooks

Mr. [Signature]

Mr. [Signature]

Michael E. Caputo

Ray [Signature]

Ch. [Signature]

Eric [Signature]

Raul R. Sabador

Dave [Signature]

Dilly Song

CRA

John McDermott

Sam Tan

Leo J. Walsh

J. M. Walsh

Lynn Jenkins

Robert Williams

Bill Cassidy

Tony Radel

Steve Fink

CR

Russ Holt

Fred R. W. W.

Peter de Zyri

J Rody Forke

Joe Wilson

Louis Lehman

Frank Naley

John J. Dunning

Mike Lipe

Walter B. Jones

Jim Gell

Matt Helman

Rich M. Van

Gen. M. Bilalici

Beto O'Rourke.

Willie L. Smart

Scott Pruitt

Robert J. Wuttman

Doug LaMalfa

Markus Miller

Chris Collins

Paul Blumenthal

Sam Johnson

Alan Snyder

J. John

Quinn Black

Ryan A. Latta

Steve Latta

Tom Peters

Sam Cobb

Mike Colburn

Tom Salmon

Colli C. D.

Mike D.

Steve R. Latta

Paul Latta

Shelley Moore Capito

Chris Smith

Chris

David P. Duce

Nick Talt

Steve Divers

Rich FH

Rein Crane

David Webster FL-10

Mick Mahan

Paul Zind.

Pent/Tianks

Tim Murphy

Jim Mathu

John Dwyer ^{MD}

Tim Walling

Paul C Brown

Jim Linn

Vern Buchanan

Joe Baxton

Bill Johnson

Trey Bowdye

David Schmuck

John

Tom Martin

Kerri Brady

Tom Mauro

Samuel B. M'Neil

Orin H. Roe

Joseph R. Pitts

L. N. Chad

Glenn Minges

Orin B. Bismark

Austin Scott

Wm. H. Schuchman

Thomas R.

Cluck Fleish

Maryna B. Bismark

Robert Pittenger

Justin M

Jeff Pincan

Bill Poy

Thur

Joe Heck

Cade Rotter

Justin Dwyer

Al G. Chin

Kerry D. Bortolotto

Paul V. Amis

John O'Connell

Ralph M. Hall

7-

Nichelle Bachman

Gynthia M. Lummis

Frank A. LoBiondo

John Culberson

Ja Z Smith

Daniel B. Miller

Rep. Scott Rigell (VA-02)
Rep. Matt Salmon (AZ-05)
Rep. Mo Brooks (AL-05)
Rep. Scott Garrett (NJ-05)
Rep. Tom McClintock (CA-04)
Rep. Tom Marino (PA-10)
Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-01)
Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-17)
Rep. Steve Pearce (NM-02)
Rep. Tim Griffin (AR-02)
Rep. Justin Amash (MI-03)
Rep. Raul Labrador (ID-01)
Rep. Joseph Pitts (PA-16)
Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-08)
Rep. John Campbell (CA-45)
Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ-04)
Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03)
Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Rep. Charles Boustany (LA-03)
Rep. Tom Cole (OK-04)
Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Rep. Austin Scott (GA-08)
Rep. Bill Posey (FL-08)
Rep. Randy Forbes (VA-04)
Rep. Phil Gingrey (GA-11)
Rep. David Roe (TN-01)
Rep. Mark Sanford (SC-01)
Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr. (TN-02)
Rep. Reid Ribble (WI-08)
Rep. James Lankford (OK-05)
Rep. Bill Cassidy (LA-06)
Rep. Stephen Fincher (TN-08)
Rep. Trey Radel (FL-19)
Rep. Chris Stewart (UT-02)
Rep. Lynn Jenkins (KS-02)
Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-03)
Rep. David McKinley (WV-01)
Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)
Rep. Joseph Heck (NV-03)
Rep. Dennis Ross (FL-15)
Rep. Billy Long (MO-07)
Rep. Randy Hultgren (IL-14)
Rep. Steven Palazzo (MS-04)
Rep. Kevin Yoder (KS-03)
Rep. Doug Collins (GA-09)
Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (PA-08)
Rep. Beto O'Rourke (TX-16)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)

Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-04)
Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR-5)
Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12)
Rep. William Enyart (IL-12)
Rep. Timothy Walz (MN-01)
Rep. Christopher Gibson (NY-19)
Rep. Trey Gowdy (SC-04)
Rep. Frank Wolf (VA-10)
Rep. Michael Capuano (MA-07)
Rep. Michael Simpson (ID-02)
Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10)
Rep. Thomas E. Petri (WI-06)
Rep. Robert Pittenger (NC-09)
Rep. Walter Jones (NC-03)
Rep. Tom Latham (IA-03)
Rep. Richard Nolan (MN-08)
Rep. Jim McDermott (WA-07)
Rep. Kerry Bentivolio (MI-11)
Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06)
Rep. Sean Duffy (WI-07)
Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01)
Rep. Morgan Griffith (VA-09)
Rep. Brad Wenstrup (OH-02)
Rep. Mark Amodei (NV-02)
Rep. Roger Williams (TX-25)
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)
Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY-02)
Rep. Sam Farr (CA-20)
Rep. Steve Daines (MT-At Large)
Rep. Robert Hurt (VA-05)
Rep. Steve Southerland, II (FL-2)
Rep. Michele Bachmann (MN-06)
Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-04)
Rep. Randy Neugebauer (TX-19)
Rep. Robert Wittman (VA-01)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-18)
Rep. David Schweikert (AZ-06)
Rep. Todd Rokita (IN-4)
Rep. David Loebsack (IA-02)
Rep. Scott Tipton (CO-03)
Rep. Frank LoBiondo (NJ-02)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)
Rep. Sam Johnson (TX-03)
Rep. Tom Price (GA-06)
Rep. Mark Meadows (NC-11)
Rep. Paul Broun (GA-10)
Rep. Markwayne Mullin (OK-02)
Rep. Steve Stockman (TX-36)

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (WI-05)
Rep. Chris Collins (NY-27)
Rep. Diane Black (TN-06)
Rep. Daniel Webster (FL-10)
Rep. Peter Welch (VT)
Rep. Lou Barletta (PA-11)
Rep. Tim Murphy (PA-18)
Rep. Gregg Harper (MS-03)
Rep. Jim Jordan (OH-04)
Rep. Ted S. Yoho (FL-03)
Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17)
Rep. Michael Burgess (TX-26)
Rep. Jim Matheson (UT-04)
Rep. Cory Gardner (CO-04)
Rep. Alan Nunnelee (MS-01)
Rep. Jason Smith (MO-08)
Rep. Charles Fleischmann (TN-03)
Rep. Tim Walberg (MI-07)
Rep. Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)
Rep. Collin Peterson (MN-7)
Rep. Tom Reed (NY-23)
Rep. David Joyce (OH-14)
Rep. Steve Stivers (OH-15)
Rep. Andy Harris (MD-01)
Rep. Elizabeth Esty (CT-05)
Rep. Candice Miller (MI-10)
Rep. Kevin Cramer (ND)
Rep. Christopher Smith (NJ-04)
Rep. Richard Hudson (NC-08)
Rep. Mick Mulvaney (SC-05)
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27)
Rep. Daniel Lipinski (IL-03)
Rep. Luke Messer (IN-06)
Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (WV-02)
Rep. Tom Graves (GA-14)
Rep. Joe Barton (TX-06)
Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ-03)
Rep. Kenny Marchant (TX-24)
Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-06)
Rep. Vern Buchanan (FL-16)
Rep. Kevin Brady (TX-08)
Rep. Daniel Maffei (NY-24)
Rep. John Abney Culberson (TX-07)
Rep. Cynthia M. Lummis (WY)