



## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

June 9, 2020

President Donald Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Republican Members of the House Armed Services Committee, we are very concerned about reports that the Administration is considering a significant reduction of U.S. troops currently based in Europe as well as a cap on the total number of U.S. troops which can be present there at any one time. We believe that such steps would significantly damage U.S. national security as well as strengthen the position of Russia to our detriment.

We strongly believe that NATO allies, such as Germany, should do more to contribute to our joint defense efforts. At the same time, we also know that the forward stationing of American troops since the end of World War II has helped to prevent another world war and, most importantly, has helped make America safer.

In Europe, the threats posed by Russia have not lessened, and we believe that signs of a weakened U.S. commitment to NATO will encourage further Russian aggression and opportunism. In addition, the overall limit on troops would prevent us from conducting the exercises that are necessary for the training and readiness of our forces and those of our allies. The troop limit would also significantly reduce the number of U.S. forces that can flow through Germany for deployment to bases around the world, causing serious logistical challenges.

Over 75 years of investments and of sacrifices have led to NATO being the most successful alliance in history. But its work is not done. While we should continue to work to improve NATO and to spread its costs more equitably, we believe that our continued strong involvement in the alliance is fundamental to our nation's security and integral to protecting our people. Withdrawals and limitations of the kind being reported would make that job more difficult.

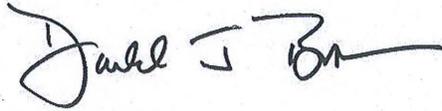
We urge you to reject such proposals. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

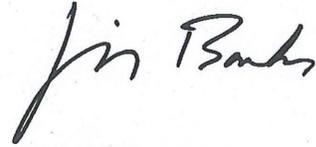
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mac Thornberry".

Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress

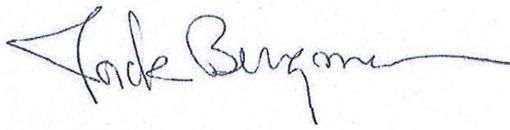
Enclosure(s)



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



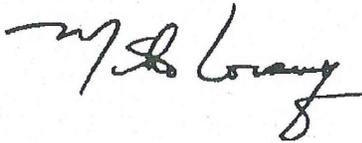
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress



Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



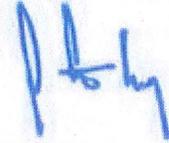
Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress



Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



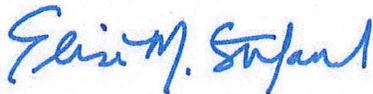
Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Mike Turner  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress