

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner & Leader McCarthy:

We write to you today because we are concerned that the House may be forced to consider a full-year continuing resolution or omnibus to fund the government through Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We believe a full-year continuing resolution is unacceptable and that base requirements for national defense must be funded at or above the \$561 billion amount included in the President's budget request. As you are well aware, similar funding levels have overwhelmingly passed in the House as part of the House budget resolution (H.Con.Res.27), National Defense Authorization Act for FY2016 (H.R. 1735), and Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2016 (H.R. 2685). We know that you share our concern for the safety and security of the country, and thank you for your unwavering support for our men and women in uniform.

It has been nearly nine months since General Martin Dempsey, then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Members of Congress that the \$561 Billion included in the President's budget request represents the "lower ragged edge" of what must be spent in order to execute current missions around the world. Since that statement, China has continued to strengthen its military and Russia's meddling in Europe has reached new heights. The United States has nearly doubled the number of service men and women fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and the President has entered into a dangerous and unwise nuclear agreement with Iran. In this increasingly unstable world, it is clear that further reductions to national defense accounts are irresponsible.

Seeking to fund our defense activities through a full-year continuing resolution would bring about devastating consequences to our national security and would amount to an abdication of our principal duty to "provide for the common defense" of the nation. Such an action would deprive our military of roughly \$41 billion in FY2016 that is required to meet basic readiness levels and execute critical modernization programs necessary to maintaining a qualitative advantage over our adversaries.

When asked by Congress about the human costs associated with FY2016 funding levels consistent with sequestration or a full-year continuing resolution, former Chief of Staff of the

Army General Ray Odierno stated, "It will cost us in lives and it will cost us in injuries." Our servicemembers deserve not only our respect and admiration for the sacrifices they make to ensure our freedom; they also deserve the resources needed to meet national security objectives.

In light of the bleak assessments provided by our military leaders, we are writing to inform you that we cannot vote for any spending measure for FY2016 that does not fund base requirements for national defense at or above the \$561 billion level. Again, thank you for your support, and we look forward to working with you to address the critical issue of funding our military through FY2016.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Amodeo

Vicky Hartley

Bill Johnson

Don Hertz

Rich Blumenthal

K. Michael Conaway

Jeff Miller

Joe Wilson

Clayton Kopp

Bob Byrd

Jackie Walorski

Mark Kelly

Martha McSally

Mo Brooks

Colin Pinn

Doug Lambson

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Elin M. Stewart NY 21

Mike Kelly PA 3

D-d Rogee

Aust. Scott

Frank A. Lo Binco

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Joanne NY 03

Ala Page

Archie Curran

Don Young

Rob Witham

Sam Cole

Tim Murphy  
PA-18

Robert Pottenger  
NC-09

Britt Muth KY-2

De CA 10

Henry Davis IL-13

Sam Johnson TX-3  
OHIO 1

St. Usher

J. K. Ed Montana

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Sharon Pann

Della CA-21  
NY-2

Wendy King

Ch NY-19

Steve Russell OK-5

Mica FL  
MICA-7

Fred Lubbock NY-2

Carl CA 49

Michael NY-27

John Carter TX-3, Tom Marino

Robert TX-1

Martha Kaley

Kay George

Jim

Jim Callahan

Robert Hardy NV-4

W. B. ... LA-3

Will Hurd

Jim Bidarstein OK-1

Jeff ... PL-26

Jim GT Terry PA-05

Chris ... UT-2

John ...

Jim ...

Dan ...

Mike ...

Charles W Dent

Keith J Rothfus.

Larry Bucher

Sam

Phil Dent

Bin Allen TX-360

John Ratchiff

Frank Yunk

Bill

Lou Barletta

Art Blome VT of

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John Peterson

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Mike W. ALA 44-12

Tom Graves

Susan Brooks

John Alice

John Henry LA04  
Frank ~~Henry~~ AR-1

Steve King IA04

Tom V. ~~As~~ NV-2

Marsha Blackburn

Matt ~~Ad~~

Jim Amodeo  
Mike Boat

Jack Pitts

John  
Fred R. ~~Worthington~~  
Roger Williams

LA-05

Mike Pompeo

Ben Rooney

Ken Calvert

Dayle Melby

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