

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your strong leadership on an intelligent foreign policy and national security strategy, particularly your emphasis on diplomacy and international partnerships. We look forward to working with you to implement a foreign policy that stresses cooperation, conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance. We are especially pleased about your commitment to bring our troops home from Iraq in sixteen months.

You have called Afghanistan “the central front” in the fight against terrorism. In an effort to promote better cooperation in our nation’s diplomatic, development, and military involvement in Afghanistan, we respectfully submit the following recommendations.

- A clear authorization of the use of military force must be established.
- We must define the goals, objectives, and benefits of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan.
- We must determine the human and financial resources necessary to carry out the Administration’s plan.
- A timeline must be developed for the redeployment of troops and military contractors.
- The role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (U.N.), and other international partners must be delineated clearly.
- The immediate humanitarian and economic needs of the Afghan people must be met.

We look forward to working with you and your Administration to help advance a responsible and smart strategy throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue further.

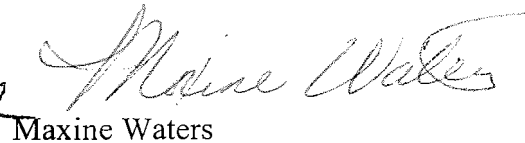
Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress