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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1007

August 30, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to follow up on a letter that Representative Scott Rigell (R-VA) sent to you on August 28, 2013, outlining a number of concerns about committing the United States to military operations in Syria.

As Representative Rigell expressed in his letter, our Founding Fathers provided the President with the power as Commander-in-Chief to use our Armed Forces in the event of attacks against the United States and its interests, but they also understood that using military force should always be undertaken with great thought and care, so they provided Congress with an important and complementary role that would indirectly bring all Americans into the decision making process.

Nearly 200 years later, at the height of the Vietnam War, amid growing discontent with the President's strategy, the congressional role was further clarified in the 1973 War Powers Resolution. The Resolution was drafted to "ensure that the *collective judgment* of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, and to the continued use of such forces in hostilities or in such situations."

The process we use to make the decision to engage in war is just as important as the strategy we employ to fight those wars, and that is why collective judgment is necessary from the beginning of such discussions. There is no doubt that the humanitarian crisis in Syria is getting worse. The Syrian people are clearly suffering, and it is important that Congress be given a voice in making a decision about what any possible response may be.

We know our colleagues both in the House and the Senate stand ready to return to Washington and have this important discussion. We urge you to come to Congress and fully lay out your plans and the basis for those plans. Only with a well reasoned, fully explained, and transparent conversation, can we ensure that whatever action the United States takes with regard to Syria

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reflects the will of the American people. You campaigned on a promise to have a transparent and accountable Administration, and we and our constituents expect you to uphold that promise now.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Bob Latta
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress