

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Buck McKeon
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin, Chairman McCain, Ranking Member McKeon, and Ranking Member Smith:

As the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act proceeds to conference, we ask that you strongly consider adopting the Senate-passed language proposed by Senators Merkley (OR), Paul (KY), and Lee (UT) calling for expedited transition of responsibility for military and security operations in Afghanistan to the Afghan government.


Specifically, this amendment requires the President to devise and submit to Congress a plan to expedite the drawdown of U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan and accelerate the transfer of security authority to Afghan authorities. Based on Section 1230 of the FY 2008 NDAA, as amended, the President would submit this report to Congress in April and October of each year, through FY 2014.

Including this provision in the final FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act will send an important message about our country's commitment to bringing the war in Afghanistan to a responsible end. We urge you to support this effort.

Sincerely,



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Ron Paul
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress