

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2013

President Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in response to recent media reports detailing deteriorating negotiations with President Karzai over a long-term security deal and the prospect of leaving no U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014. Especially in light of these recent developments, we urge you to lay out a specific plan for withdrawing all U.S. troops by the end of next year.

The American people understand that there is no military solution in Afghanistan, and extending U.S. troop presence will not serve vital U.S. security goals. Now is the time to commit to an accelerated withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military contractors out of Afghanistan with no permanent bases left behind. While we support the current policy to maintain a strong diplomatic presence in Afghanistan, we want to underscore that any long-term commitment of U.S. troops beyond 2014 must have congressional authorization.

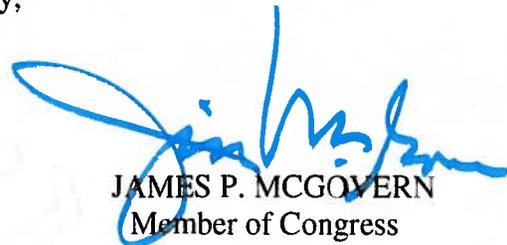
There is a growing bipartisan sentiment in Congress and across the country for an expedited end of military activities in Afghanistan as demonstrated by the overwhelming bipartisan support for the *McGovern-Jones-Smith (WA)-Lee (CA)-Garamendi* Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, adopted June 13, 2013.

We urge you to take this opportunity to bring the war in Afghanistan to an end and bring our troops home as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress