

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We enthusiastically welcome your recently-announced plans to withdraw American troops from the 20-year war in Afghanistan by September 2021, an important step in stopping endless warfighting that has wasted more than \$2.6 trillion taxpayer dollars and killed more than 238,000 individuals since 2001.

While your commitment to withdrawing U.S. troops is commendable and long-overdue, it should be accompanied by a corresponding commitment to reducing military spending. We urge you to reconfigure your Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget request to, at minimum, reflect the “peace dividend” gained by exiting the war in Afghanistan.

Estimates indicate that as much as \$50 billion will be freed up by withdrawing troops from Afghanistan. Reallocating that funding to domestic priorities and human needs would expand your Build Back Better agenda. It could end homelessness in the United States, provide increased health coverage to Americans in need, or contribute to the ongoing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your Administration has a historic opportunity to reduce our overreliance on militarized approaches to global challenges and reallocate resources accordingly. We therefore urge you to not only follow through on your pledge to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan, but also to propose a corresponding lower Pentagon topline in your forthcoming full budget request. We also request a detailed description of the savings generated by the forthcoming troop withdrawal, and an explanation of where those cost-savings will be reallocated. The people of the United States deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress