

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 22, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to respectfully request that you continue to refuse to transfer shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles (“MANPADS”) to Syrian combatants, including those who have been vetted and trained by the U.S. Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency. Your position opposing the supply of MANPADs to Syrian combatants is consistent with longstanding U.S. counter-proliferation commitments and is consistent with legislation passed unanimously by the House of Representatives in June 2014.

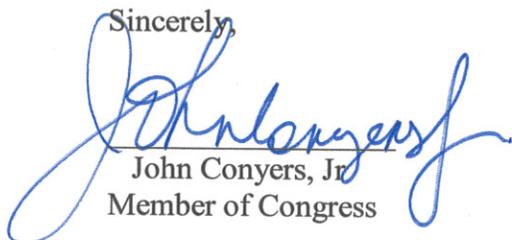
Even with U.S. troops limited to an “advise and support” role in the region—a role reaffirmed in the National Defense Authorization Act that you signed last month—there is, as you know, inherent potential for unintended consequences when we train and equip fighters in a highly complex foreign conflict.

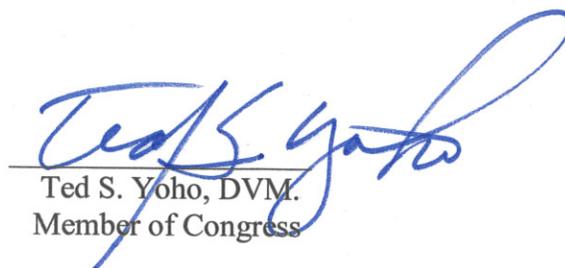
As you are keenly aware, even careful training and vetting by the U.S. military in Afghanistan has not prevented “green on blue” attacks by Afghan soldiers and police on U.S. troops. And in November 2014, the headquarters of CIA-backed militia Harakat Hazm — one of the biggest recipients of U.S. arms including powerful TOW antitank missiles — was overrun by Jabhat al-Nusra, al-Qaeda’s primary affiliate in Syria. When Harakat Hazm fled its positions, many of their weapons were seized by al-Nusra. This was not an isolated occurrence — numerous units of U.S.-backed militias in Syria have reportedly surrendered or defected, along with their weapons, to terrorist organizations or other extremist militants.

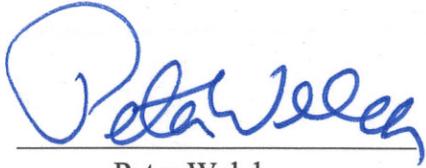
In the wake of this year’s tragedy involving the use of surface-to-air missiles in Ukraine, America must uphold its obligation to prevent the spread of such deadly weapons.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

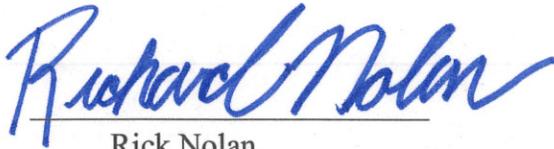

Ted S. Yoho, DVM.
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



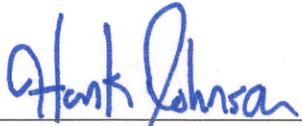
Walter Jones
Member of Congress



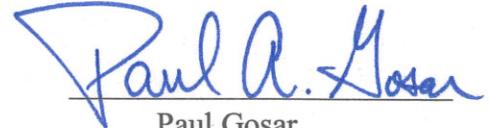
Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



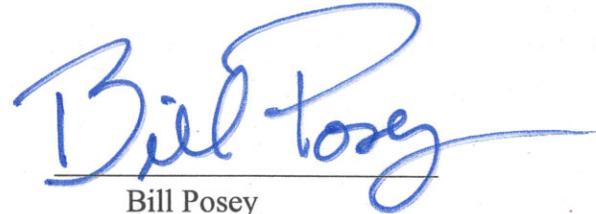
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



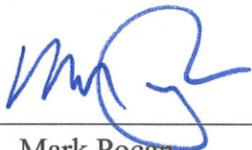
Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



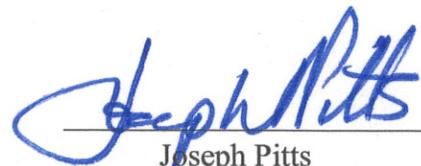
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



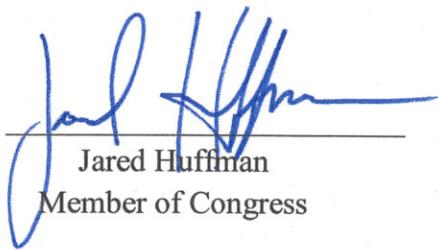
Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



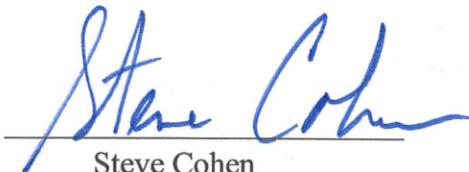
Joseph Pitts
Member of Congress



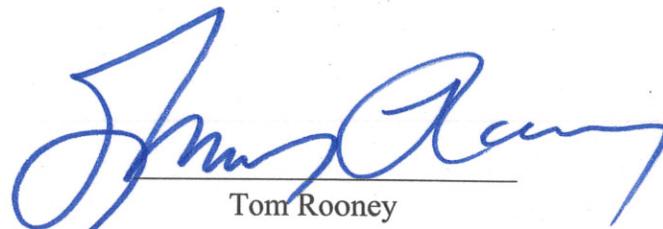
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



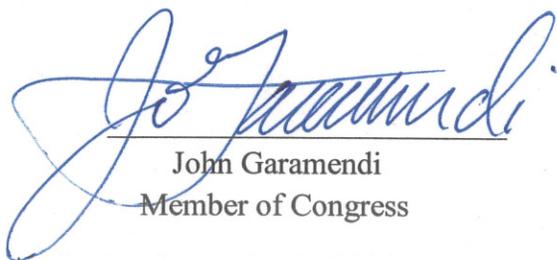
Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



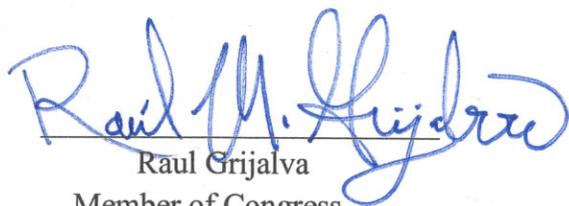
Tom Rooney
Member of Congress



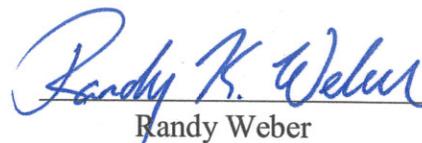
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



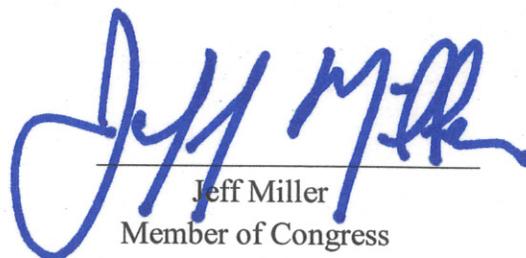
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson
Member of Congress