

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2007

Jaap De Hoop Scheffer
Secretary General
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Boulevard Leopold III
B-1110 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Secretary General Scheffer:

We are writing to you regarding limitations placed by some NATO members on their contributions to operations in Afghanistan. The United States is grateful to all of the allies who have rallied to defend not only our nation, but also all 26 nations of the NATO alliance as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

It is in the interest of all NATO Allies to ensure that Afghanistan is effectively secured, that the Taliban are uprooted, and that an effective Afghan force can take responsibility for the security of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, many allies have placed serious restrictions regarding the nature and scope of their military engagement and support in Afghanistan. Such restrictions have put an enormous strain on NATO forces in Afghanistan, resulting in a shortage of combat forces, unequal burden-sharing, and limitations in the ability of ISAF commanders to coordinate and engage allied forces effectively. Shortly before stepping down as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General James L. Jones testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "caveats are very limiting." In fact he stated that he thought that "they actually make our problems more difficult...countries whose troops have excessive number of caveats project weakness and make them more vulnerable."

We appreciate the leadership that you have demonstrated in helping to shape NATO to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We ask that you continue to encourage allies to lift the numerous restrictions placed on their forces and to continue to press all allies to deliver on promised support for NATO's operations in Afghanistan. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything more that the US Congress can do to support NATO's comprehensive operations in Afghanistan.

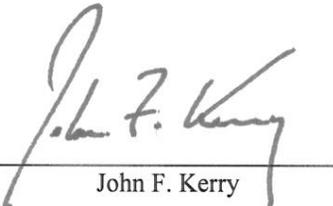
Sincerely,



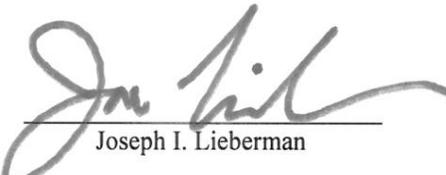
Christopher J. Dodd



Chuck Hagel


John F. Kerry


George V. Voinovich


Joseph I. Lieberman

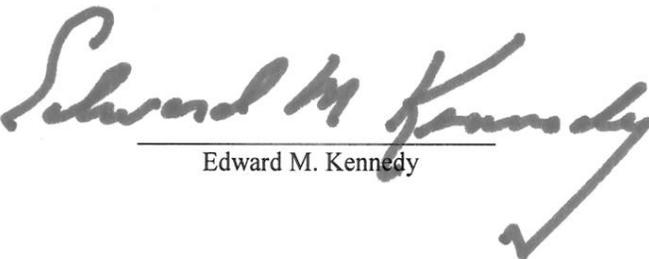

Norm Coleman

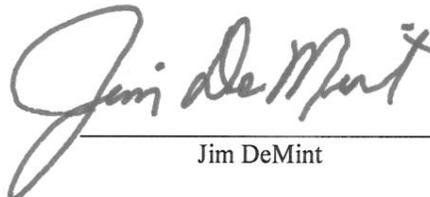

Carl Levin

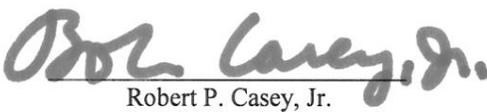

Bob Corker


Russell D. Feingold

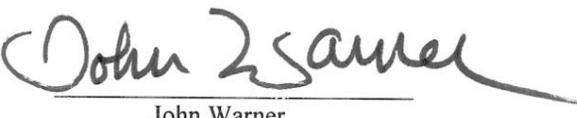

Robert F. Bennett


Edward M. Kennedy

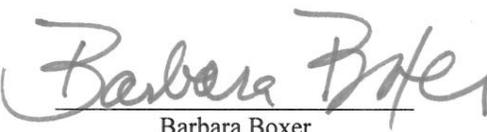

Jim DeMint


Robert P. Casey, Jr.


Richard G. Lugar


John Warner


Elizabeth Dole


Barbara Boxer

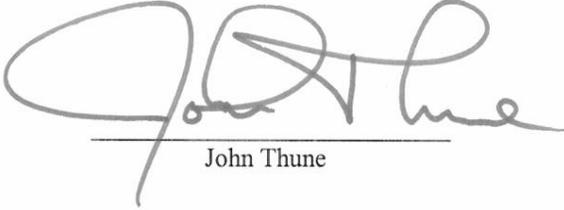

James M. Inhofe



Sheldon Whitehouse



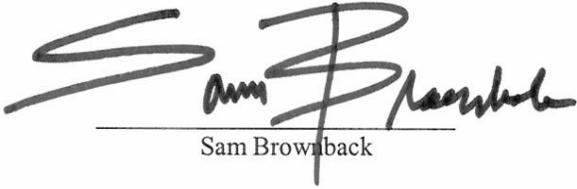
Jon Kyl



John Thune



Saxby Chambliss



Sam Brownback