Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2010

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Today we write to express our opposition to the apparent move to delay the complete redeployment of troops from Afghanistan. In a recent interview, U.S. Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, the commander of the NATO training mission in Afghanistan, said that U.S. forces will still be fighting in Afghanistan in 2014. Lt. Gen. Caldwell is quoted as saying:

> "I think [the] key here is they're talking about December 31st, 2014. It's the end of December in 2014 when they're talking about that, President Karzai has said they want Afghan security forces in the lead. It doesn't mean that there will still not be coalition forces here in support of them. But the primary lead for security in this country must have been established with the Afghan security forces in the lead by the end of 2014… [W]e fully support and endorse and, in fact, by all accounts believe that we can in fact achieve that and have the Afghan security forces in the lead by the end of 2014."

Mr. President, such an extension of U.S. troops in Afghanistan is contrary to American public opinion and to the future of America. We believe that this Congress will not support efforts to extend our military operations in Afghanistan into 2014 and we call on you to reaffirm your commitment to begin a safe and rapid redeployment beginning in July 2011. Any delay or deceleration in the pace of redeployment is unacceptable.

It is our hope that we can work together to provide for a humanitarian and diplomatic "surge" that will ensure the security and prosperity of the Afghan people. After nine years in Afghanistan, the country remains in chaos, the government remains corrupt and ineffective, and we are suffering more casualties and are poised to spend more money than ever before. We remain absolutely opposed to extending our military presence because we believe there is no military solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Lynn C. Woolsey

Walter B. Jones

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