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July 23, 2013

The Honorable Susan Rice
National Security Advisor
600 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20508-0001

Dear Ms. Rice:

As you assume the post of National Security Advisor this month, we write regarding the Administration's pronounced strategy to "pivot" or "rebalance" our Nation's time, energy, and resources to the Asia-Pacific.

We share a desire to see this Administration continue to vigorously articulate and advocate for the resources required to uphold our interests in this vital region. As you know, for the better part of the past seventy years, these interests have been built on a foundation of strong alliances, free markets, and a robust military balance that favors a rules-based order. Although the Asia-Pacific has witnessed many positive developments in trade, governance, security, and human rights, we agree with President Obama's 2011 statement in Australia that the United States must continue to play a "larger and long-term role in shaping this region [the Asia-Pacific] and its future."

But while we appreciate the Administration's strategic decision to "rebalance" our Nation's energy towards this region, what is now required is a clear, interagency guidance enabling a broad effort and empowering departments and agencies to implement the guidance. This will better realize the benefits of this effort. Currently, agencies outside of the White House, including the Department of Defense, Department of State, and country teams at various Asia-Pacific Embassies lack the specific direction that will be required for the implementation of this strategy. A July 2012 CSIS report entitled "U.S. Force Posture Strategy in the Asia Pacific Region: An Independent Assessment" also highlighted the problems and challenges associated with a lack of overarching leadership on how to implement the rebalance strategy. Without this guidance, the rest of the U.S. Government and our officials in Asian capitals have been left to try and parse policy from speeches, interviews, and articles. We believe this is required not only so

that departments and agencies across the U.S. Government can have the authority to think and act creatively within a robust interagency system, but also to communicate to Congress the breadth of resources that will be required to implement this strategy.

Therefore, in order to better define the ends-ways-means of the Administration's strategic objectives in this region, we urge you to lead an interagency *Asia-Pacific Strategy Review*. Such a document, in unclassified and classified form, will provide permanent clarity to the Administration's regional strategy and more effectively communicate to the U.S. Government, friends, and allies the direction of U.S. policy in the region. This document could also describe more frankly to Congress the resources, goals, and objectives of the strategy.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to support this important effort.

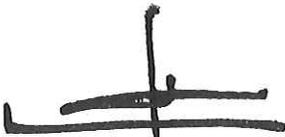
Sincerely,



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress