

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

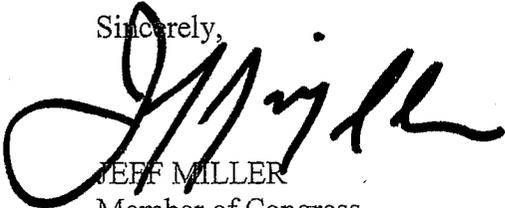
As you are certainly well aware, the Iraqi government has recently called on the United States to commit 5000 troops to remain in Iraq beyond December 31, 2011—the date after which the current status of forces agreement (SOFA) expires. Despite recognizing the need for American military trainers to remain well beyond the end of this year, the Iraqi government has indicated that it will refuse to extend immunity to our troops after the current SOFA expires. Therefore, when the current SOFA expires, any troops remaining in Iraq will become subject to prosecution under Iraqi laws in Iraqi courts.

Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen have selflessly sacrificed the last eight years to put Iraq on a path toward peace, stability, and democracy. The freedoms enjoyed by ordinary Iraqis today would not have been possible were it not for the courage, valor, and commitment of our young fighting men and women. To request their continued sacrifice, while stripping them of legal immunity from frivolous and politically-charged prosecutions, is a brazen insult. Any such arrangement would be wholly unacceptable.

For decades in places like Japan, Great Britain, Germany, and Italy, we have maintained military bases and healthy relationships with host nation governments. At the heart of those relationships is the understanding that criminal actions committed by service members on foreign territory will be swiftly adjudicated in American military courts. Those found guilty are punished appropriately under the laws of the United States. We urge you to demand that as a condition of committing any troops to remain in Iraq beyond December 31, 2011, the Iraqi government unconditionally grants immunity to such troops.

We thank you for your service, and we urge you to seize this opportunity to apply your firm leadership to soothe the concerns of our service members.

Sincerely,



JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress



DAN LIPINSKI
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman

MIKE COFFMAN
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin

TIM GRIFFIN
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland

LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress

Joe Barton

JOE BARTON
Member of Congress

Tom Rooney

TOM ROONEY
Member of Congress

Steve King

STEVE KING
Member of Congress

Sue Myrick

SUE MYRICK
Member of Congress

Peter King

PETER KING
Member of Congress

Frank L. Lobiondo

FRANK LOBIONDO
Member of Congress

Allen West

ALLEN WEST
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris-Rodgers

CATHY MCMORRIS-RODGERS
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner

MIKE TURNER
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins

LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress

Randy Forbes

RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress

Jon Runyan

JON RUNYAN
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway

MIKE CONAWAY
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter

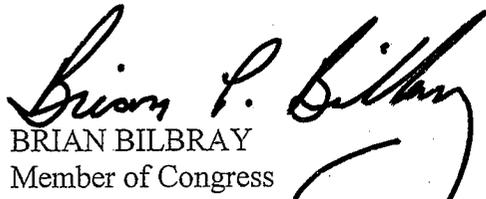
DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress

John Kline

JOHN KLINE
Member of Congress

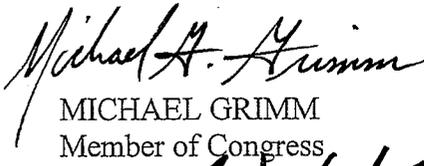
Marsha Blackburn

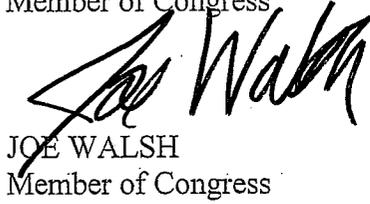
MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress


BRIAN BILBRAY
Member of Congress

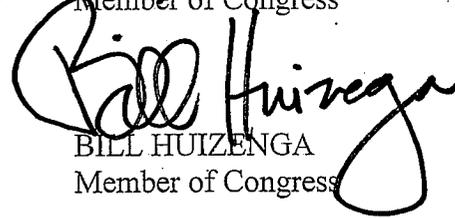

ROB WITTMAN
Member of Congress

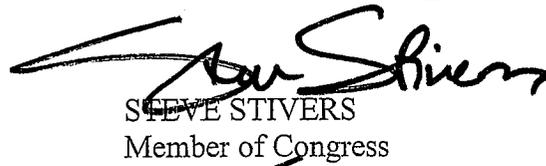

TODD PLATTS
Member of Congress


MICHAEL GRIMM
Member of Congress


JOE WALSH
Member of Congress


TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress


BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress


STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress


KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress