June 26, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Pursuant to 50 U.S.C. § 3043, within 150 days of taking office, a new President must provide Congress—and, by extension, the American public—with a report that sets forth “the national security strategy of the United States.” That deadline passed on June 19th. We write to urge you to transmit this National Security Strategy without undue delay.

As envisioned by Congress, the National Security Strategy is intended to be a practical document that guides the real-world conduct of our military planners, intelligence officials, homeland security professionals, diplomats, and aid workers. To craft the National Security Strategy, a new presidential administration must identify our national security objectives with precision, prioritize those objectives, and then present a realistic, whole-of-government plan to achieve those objectives with the resources available. A good National Security Strategy will explain both the broad principles that underlie the administration’s approach to foreign policy and the specific steps that the administration intends to take to address discrete threats.

In light of the complex web of challenges that the United States confronts, the need for your administration to swiftly prepare and submit a National Security Strategy is acute. We are particularly interested in the administration’s strategy to deter and denuclearize North Korea; to defeat ISIL and its affiliates on the field of battle and in the realm of ideas; to stabilize Syria and Iraq; to ensure that Iran complies with its nuclear-related obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and reduces its support for terrorist organizations; to counter Russian aggression pursued through both military and non-military means; to turn the tide in Afghanistan; and to address emerging national security threats, such as cyberwarfare and climate change.

The United States must utilize all elements of its national power in support of security policies that are strategic, strong, and smart, fully leveraging the expertise of all our national security agencies, from the Department of Defense to the Department of State and USAID. We are
growing increasingly concerned that you have yet to delineate a strategy to guide foreign policy
decision-making and have yet to nominate or achieve confirmation of individuals for key
national security positions who are needed to develop and execute that strategy.

We look forward to receiving the congressionally-mandated National Security Strategy as soon
as possible.

Sincerely,

SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress

JIM HIMES
Member of Congress

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

JOSEPH CROWLEY
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MARCY KAPTUR
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DAVID N. CICILLINE
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GRACE MENG
Member of Congress
BETTY MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress

DWIGHT EVANS  
Member of Congress

THOMAS SUOZZI  
Member of Congress

DONALD NORCROSS  
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress

DEREK KILMER  
Member of Congress

THEODORE E. DEUTCH  
Member of Congress

BRENDAN F. BOYLE  
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN  
Member of Congress