

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to once again draw your attention to your constitutional responsibility to consult and receive authorization from Congress before ordering use of U.S. military force, which would include any military action against North Korea that is not in response to an attack by that country. The mandate requiring Congressional consultation and authorization is prescribed in both the U.S. Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

While both the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973 provide the Office of the President with the authority to act in cases of emergencies, both require an affirmative authorization from Congress before our nation engages in military action abroad against a state that has not attacked the U.S. or our assets abroad. As Section 2 of the War Powers Resolution of 1973 makes clear, absent a declaration of war or a specific statutory authorization approved by Congress, only a “a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces” can justify military action undertaken without Congressional authorization.

Few decisions are more needing of debate than a move to launch attacks, or declare war, on a nuclear-armed state such as North Korea. Military action against North Korea was considered by the Obama, Bush and Clinton Administrations, but all ultimately determined there was no military option that would not run the unacceptable risk of a counter-reaction from Pyongyang. This reaction could immediately threaten the lives of as many as a third of the South Korean population, put nearly 30,000 U.S. service members and over 100,000 other U.S. citizens residing in South Korea in grave danger, and also threaten other regional allies such as Japan.

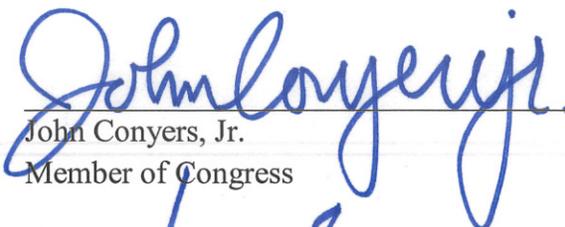
In such a volatile region, an inconsistent or unpredictable policy runs the risk of unimaginable conflict. That is why we strongly urge you to adhere to the diplomatic approach recently articulated by Secretary Tillerson, who stated that your Administration’s sole goal is to “seek a denuclearized Korean Peninsula,” and that you “do not seek regime change” and “do not seek a collapse of the regime,” both of which could lead down a path that could risk nuclear war. We support Secretary Tillerson’s statement that the preferred method for resolution is “direct talks with North Korea,” including persuading them to relinquish their nuclear

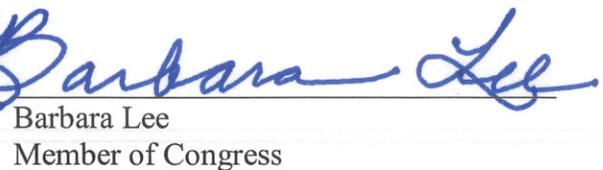
weapons by assuring them that they "do not need these weapons to secure the existence of [their] regime."

We respectfully request more information about the steps your Administration is taking to advance the prospects for direct negotiations that could lower the potential for catastrophic war and ultimately lead to the denuclearization of the peninsula. We would also urge the Administration to outline steps to address humanitarian issues of mutual concern such as the reunification of Korean and Korean American families as well as the repatriation of the remains of US servicemen left in North Korea following the War.

We look forward to receiving details about your plans for a negotiated resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, and, in the event that your plans do include an ill-advised military component, we stand ready to exercise our constitutional duty to approve, or reject, any such military action.

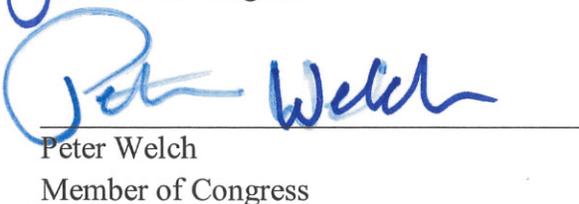
Sincerely,

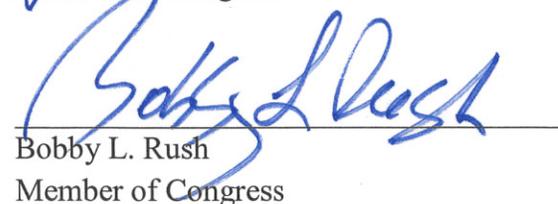

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

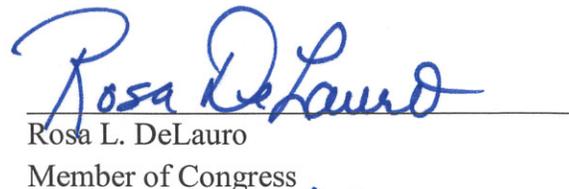

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

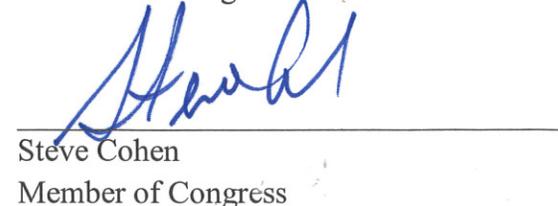

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

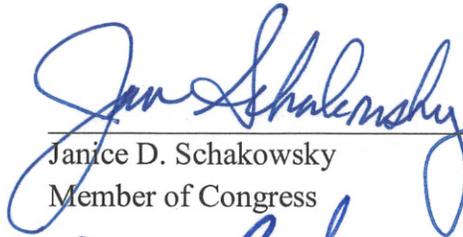

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

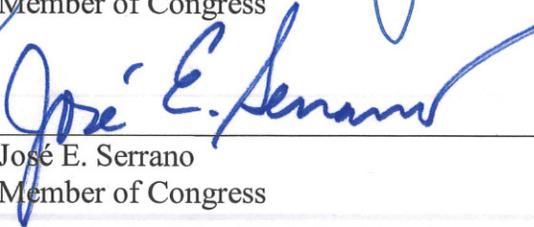

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



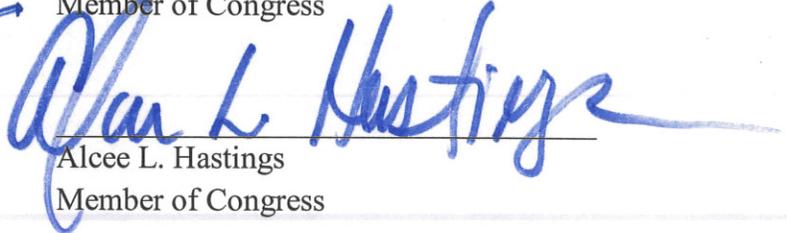
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



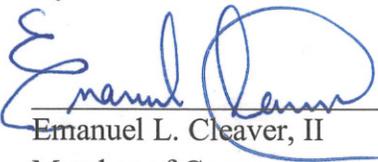
Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



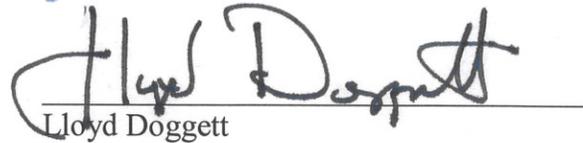
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Emanuel L. Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



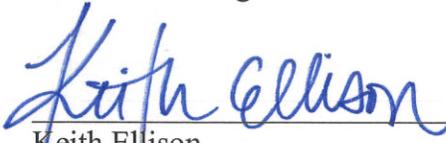
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



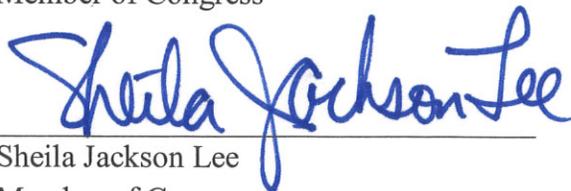
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

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Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio

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Member of Congress

Louise G. Slaughter

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

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Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Mark Takano

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano

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Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

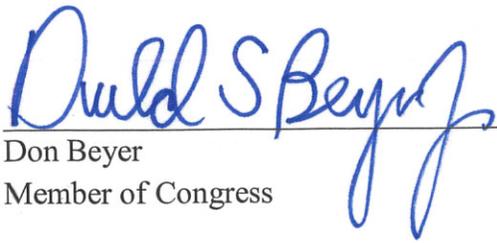
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence

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Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

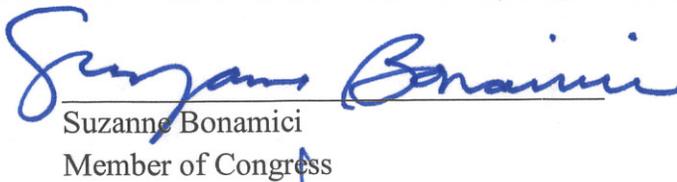
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

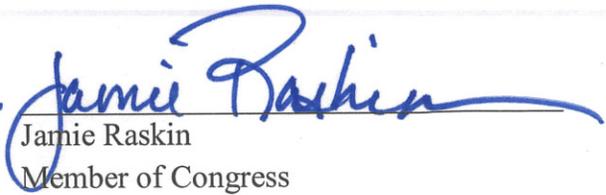

Don Beyer
Member of Congress

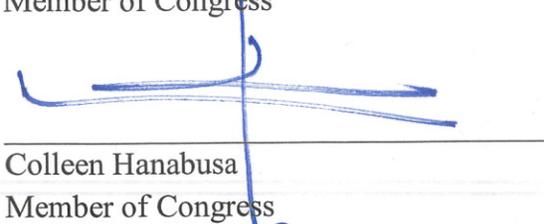

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

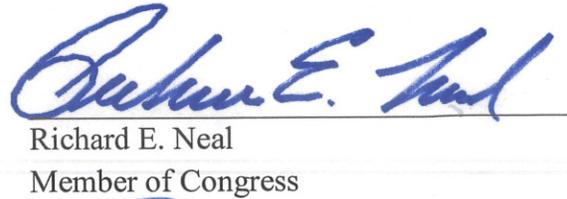

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

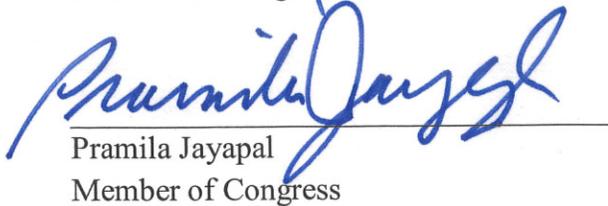

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

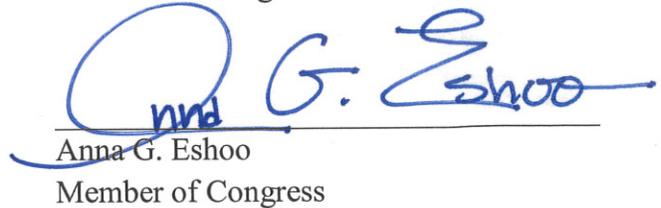

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

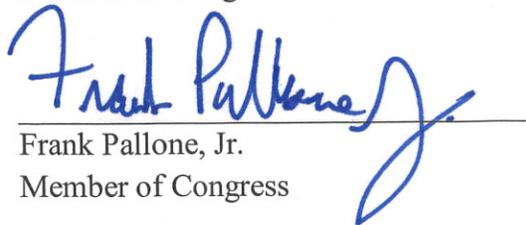

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

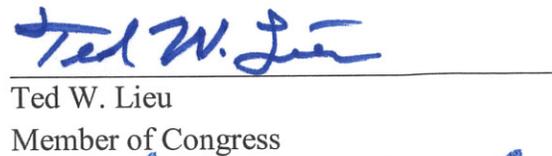

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

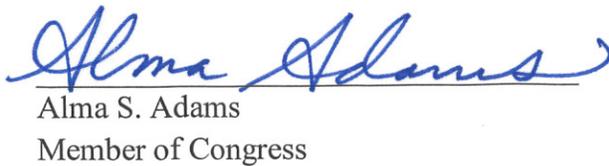

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

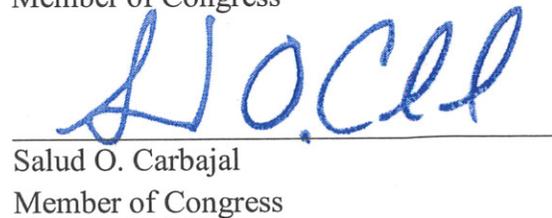

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

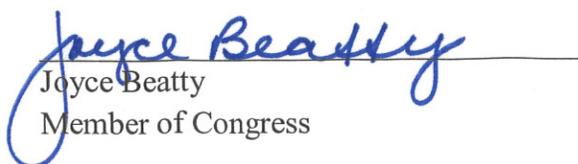

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

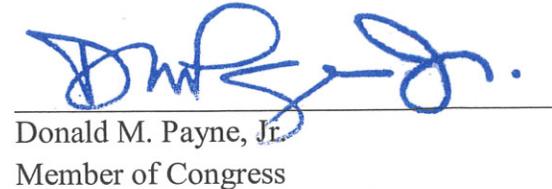

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress


Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress


Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Darren Soto

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

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Member of Congress