

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2024

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader-Elect  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader-elect Thune and Majority Leader Schumer,

We, the undersigned veterans of Congress, write to express our strong support for Mr. Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. In an era of unprecedented global challenges, America demands defense leadership that breaks from conventional approaches. President-elect Trump has selected Mr. Hegseth to go beyond traditional bureaucratic management to fundamentally transform our national defense strategy and rebuild military capabilities.

His ability to communicate across institutional landscapes—with military leadership, congressional representatives, and frontline troops—will set him apart. His media expertise and transparent communication style will be crucial in executing a clear vision that cuts through bureaucratic inertia.

As a decorated combat veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns, he offers an authentic understanding of modern warfare. His Harvard and Princeton credentials, combined with battlefield experience, forged a rare intellect aligned with President-elect Trump's strategic vision, to bridge the gap between the beltway and frontline realities.

Mr. Hegseth stands as a critical connector to the force of tomorrow. In an era of declining recruitment, he offers a compelling vision that speaks directly to potential service members – a return to a military focused on excellence and unwavering national defense.

The current global security landscape demands a leader who understands the complexities of modern conflicts. Mr. Hegseth's singular focus on military lethality, coupled with deep knowledge of Defense and Veterans Affairs, positions him to create a more responsive and effectively prepared fighting force. The Heritage Foundation's recent assessment of our military strength as "weak" is an urgent call to action. Mr. Hegseth represents the strategic reset our defense infrastructure requires – an unorthodox yet qualified leader who can streamline the defense bureaucracy, accelerate modernization, and ensure America remains the world's most formidable military power.

Despite relentless media attempts to undermine Mr. Hegseth's nomination, we call on the Senate to honor its constitutional duty of advice and consent by conducting a fair, thorough confirmation process that evaluates his nomination solely on its substantive merits— his distinguished military service, academic credentials, and a bold vision for revitalizing our national defense. The integrity of our democratic institutions depends on allowing this critical process to proceed.

We earnestly support Mr. Hegseth's nomination as Secretary of Defense, confident he will transform President-elect Trump's vision into reality, safeguarding America's national security interests with courage, intellect, and unwavering commitment.

Sincerely,



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



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Elijah Crane  
Member of Congress



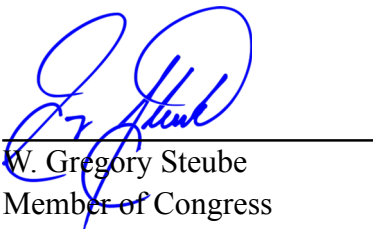
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Cory Mills  
Member of Congress



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Anna Paulina Luna  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



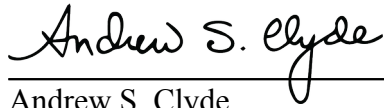
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Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



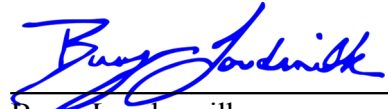
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Rich McCormick, MD, MBA  
Member of Congress



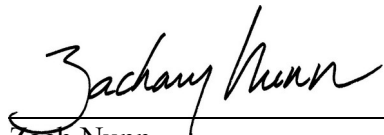
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Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



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Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



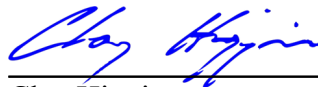
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Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress



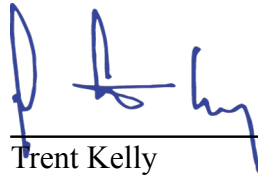
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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress




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Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Ryan K. Zinke  
Member of Congress



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Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



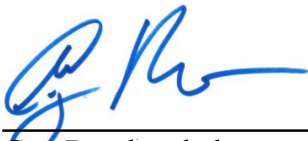
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Brandon Williams  
Member of Congress



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Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



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William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



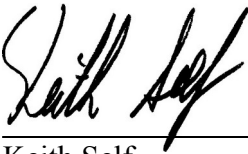
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Mark E. Green, MD  
Member of Congress



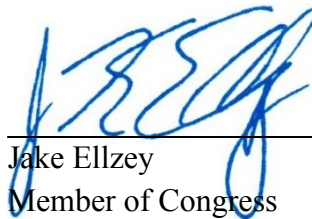
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Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



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Keith Self  
Member of Congress



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Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



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Morgan Luttrell  
Member of Congress



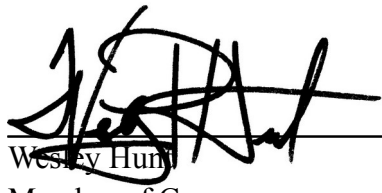
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Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



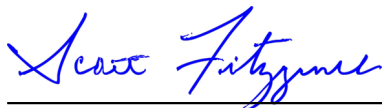
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Wesley Hunt  
Member of Congress



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Derrick Van Orden  
Member of Congress



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Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress