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U.S. House of Representatives
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PAUL ARDANDELLI, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As you prepare your administration's fiscal year 2022 (FY22) budget for submission to Congress, we urge you to reject demands from many on the left to cut or freeze defense spending at current levels. Instead, we respectfully request you continue the progress made under the Trump administration to rebuild our military by requesting a 3 to 5 percent increase over the inflation adjusted FY21 enacted level.

Years of Budget Control Act (BCA) related defense cuts undermined military readiness, set back efforts to modernize the force, and gave our adversaries the time necessary to gain significant advantages that now jeopardize our military superiority. During the BCA years, defense spending as a percentage of all federal outlays and GDP declined significantly. While our defense investments shrank, our adversaries' investments grew. For instance, the Chinese Communist Party increased its defense spending by over 75 percent in the last decade. As a result, the Chinese military has gone from an obsolete force barely able to defend its borders to a modern fighting force capable of winning regional conflicts. If we do nothing, over the next decade, China will fully modernize its military, potentially bringing it into parity with our own.

Fortunately, the National Defense Strategy lays out a path to counter these growing threats and will help ensure American military dominance well into the future. But executing the strategy will require increasing investment over the next decade. The bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission recommended an annual 3 to 5 percent increase above the rate of inflation in the base defense budget to "meet the ends the NDS establishes". Accordingly, we believe an increase of 3 to 5 percent above inflation in the base defense budget is a prudent amount that will enable the military to stay ahead of evolving threats from our adversaries.

We also urge you to use your FY22 budget request to make key investments that will modernize the force and fill ongoing readiness gaps. Specifically, it is imperative that we improve force proficiency on new battlefields such as cyber; continue work at DoD and the National Nuclear Security Administration to modernize our nuclear triad; grow our naval and projection forces; and quickly incorporate the latest innovations and enhancements into warfighting capabilities, including air and sealift, space, missile defense, munitions, and electronic warfare.

The next four years are going to be a crucial period for our military and our nation. If we do not make the investments our military needs today, we will not be able to defend our nation or our allies in the future. The security of the free world depends on a credible American military. We look forward to working with you to ensure the men and women of our Armed Services have the resources and support they need to successfully carry out their missions now and for decades to come.

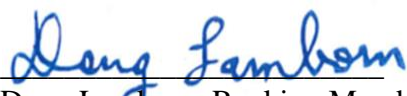
Sincerely,



Mike D. Rogers, Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services



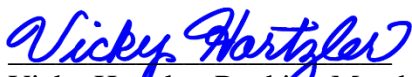
Michael R. Turner, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces



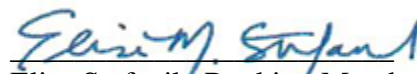
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