

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
2301 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable Daniel Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Secretaries Tillerson, Mattis, and Director Coats:

We write to respectfully request an update on your efforts to jointly develop a five-year strategy to help the Nigerian government and its partners to combat Boko Haram and address the legitimate concerns of affected, vulnerable populations. Public Law 114-266, signed December 14, 2016, requires this strategy be submitted to Congress by June 12, 2017.

The law requires the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Director of National Intelligence to jointly develop and submit to Congress a five-year anti-Boko Haram strategy within 180 days of its enactment. This strategy should include plans to assist the Nigerian government, the Multinational Joint Task Force, and international partners to counter the regional threat posed by Boko Haram, enhance Nigeria's capacity to provide safe and secure schools, provide humanitarian support, and strengthen and promote the rule of law and human rights.

It has been more than three years since the terrorist group, Boko Haram, kidnapped 276 Nigerian schoolgirls from the Government Secondary School in the town of Chibok. Since that day, the Chibok schoolgirls have been held in captivity by this terrorist organization, which prides itself on abducting, burning, raping and butchering innocent people. In response to the kidnapping and growing atrocities committed by Boko Haram, Congress unanimously passed bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senator Susan Collins and Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson and cosponsored by the signers of this letter, S. 1632/H.R. 3833, which became Public Law 114-266.

While we were encouraged by the release of 82 of the Chibok schoolgirls last week, it is imperative that we remember that many of the girls remain in captivity along with untold hundreds of other women, men and children who have been kidnapped by Boko Haram. As we approach June 12, the 180-day deadline set by Public Law 114-266, we look forward to receiving an update on your efforts to develop an anti-Boko Haram strategy and beginning the process of dismantling Boko Haram and reuniting all of the Chibok schoolgirls with their families.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



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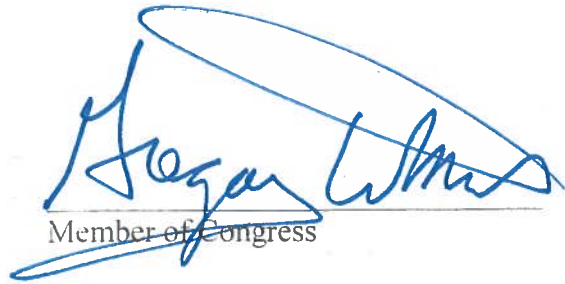
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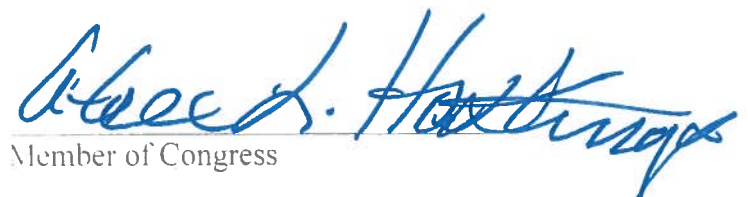

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Senator Lisa A. Murkowski (AK)

Senator James M. Inhofe (OK)

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH)

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