

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Reed:

We write to share our support for Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. Mr. Hegseth has dedicated his entire life as a warrior for the troops and for our country. Pete served our country as an Army Combat Veteran who did tours in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, and Afghanistan – every major battleground since 9/11. For his actions on the battlefield, he was decorated with two Bronze Stars, as well as a Combat Infantryman's Badge. As a member of the National Guard, he was on the frontlines of the 2020 protests, holding a shield outside the White House to defend our nation's capital.

If confirmed as Secretary of Defense, Mr. Hegseth will focus on rebuilding peace through strength, putting America first, prioritizing America's military readiness, and focusing on lethality and maintaining our competitive edge. He will always have an eye on the service member – drawn from his experience in uniform. To that end, he will also focus on restoring morale and trust in America's military to fix the recruiting crisis and make our troops once again proud to put on the uniform. (We have already heard from service members who are extending their service because of Mr. Hegseth's nomination). Lastly, in line with President Trump's efforts to right-size the federal government, Mr. Hegseth will prioritize building an effective, streamlined Pentagon that can pass an audit, free of waste, fraud, and abuse, with a workforce focused on the core mission.

Mr. Hegseth represents a new generation of leadership – like Rep. Mike Waltz and Sen. Tom Cotton – who have learned the lessons of policy failures from the last 16 years the hard way. Hegseth was taught leadership during his service, led two large veterans' advocacy groups, and we trust his leadership at the top of the Department. For the last quarter of a century, America has had a line of (supposedly) superbly qualified Secretaries – men with long histories of managing massive bureaucracies, commanding troops in combat, and managing the building. This model has led to a fighting force that has been ground down, a morale and recruiting crisis across the services, an inability to innovate, and a technological edge we are barely clinging to. Having another Secretary in the same model is bound to deliver the same results. Hegseth, on the other hand, is a game-changing, trail-blazing nominee who will deliver on President Trump's promise to make America strong again, with a renewed respect for the United States around the world. He knows the cost of war and its consequences on our young service members. Like President Trump, Hegseth wants a consistently strong force – not one that is used as a last resort that people like President Biden and Vice President Harris too often want to use in the most dangerous circumstances.

When it comes to America's national security, Mr. Hegseth shares President Trump's vision and plans for rebuilding and replenishing our military, restoring its Warrior Ethos, and ensuring that debacles like the Afghanistan withdrawal never happen again. For these reasons, we support his nomination and urge you to quickly confirm his nomination as Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,




Lisa C. McClain
Republican Conference
Chairwoman



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



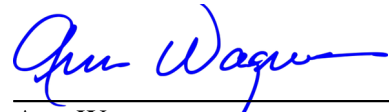
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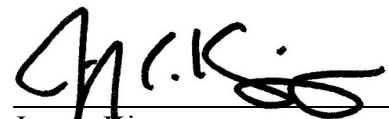
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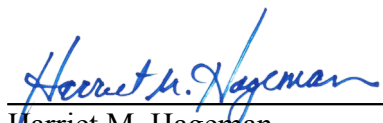
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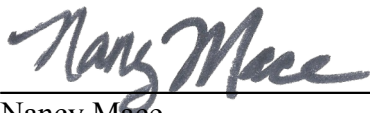
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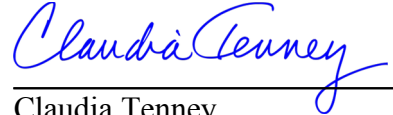
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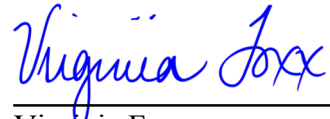
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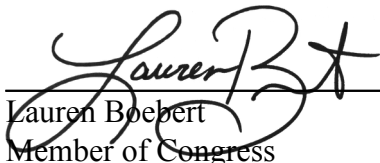
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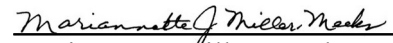
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