

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 13, 2013

The Honorable
Robert Menendez, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

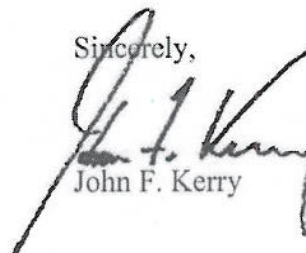
The continued operation of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility undermines U.S. national security and foreign policy interests. I seek your support for the provisions in the Senate Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act that would provide flexibility for detainee transfers and strike unmanageable provisions that currently hinder our efforts to close the facility.

The continued operation of the Guantanamo facility damages U.S. diplomatic relations and our standing in the world. It undermines America's indispensable leadership on human rights and other critical foreign policy and national security matters. In particular, the Guantanamo detention facility consistently impedes joint counterterrorism efforts with friends and allies. Provisions in the Senate bill would provide an effective, yet judicious, transfer authority which would provide critical support and flexibility in ongoing negotiations with foreign governments on repatriation and resettlement issues.

With increasing fiscal challenges, we must bear in mind that, aside from its incalculable diplomatic costs, detention operations at Guantanamo cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$2.7 million *per detainee* each year—far more than our super maximum security prisons that safely and securely hold the most dangerous inmates in the world, including convicted terrorists. As both detainees and facilities age, these costs will sharply increase.

I hope I can count on your support for the Guantanamo provisions in the Senate Defense Authorization bill to provide us the flexibility we need to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Until this flexibility is restored, our efforts to close the facility are hampered and our national security and foreign policy interests continue to be impeded.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry

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November 13, 2013

The Honorable
Bob Corker
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

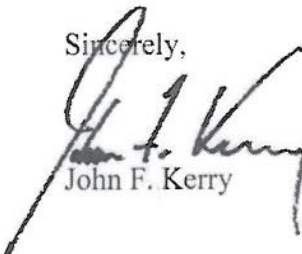
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John F. Kerry

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The Honorable
Edward R. Royce, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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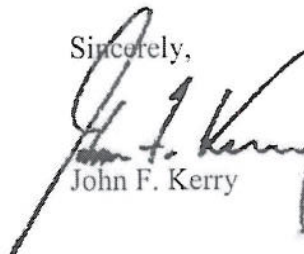
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John F. Kerry

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November 13, 2013

The Honorable
Eliot L. Engel
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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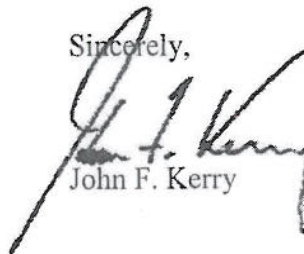
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