

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 22, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room H-405  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room H-405  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Durbin, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Member Visclosky,

For nearly a decade, Russia's violations of the Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) have gone unanswered by the United States.

We can publicly state that Russia's work on INF non-compliant systems dates back to 2008 and was finally labeled a violation of that treaty in the 2014 version of the annual State Department arms control compliance report. Further, on March 8, 2017, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Paul Selva, USAF, stated that:

“[w]e believe that the Russians have deployed a land-based cruise missile that violates the spirit and intent of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty [sic.]...I don't have enough information on their intent to conclude other than that they do not intend to return to compliance. Absent some pressure from the international community and the United States as a cosigner of the same agreement, there's no trajectory in what they're doing that would indicate otherwise.”

That is why, on December 8, 2017, the Trump Administration announced that,

“we are now pursuing economic and military measures intended to induce the Russian Federation to return to compliance. This includes a review of military concepts and options, including options for conventional, ground-launched, intermediate-range missile systems, which would enable the United States to defend ourselves and our allies, should the Russian Federation not return to compliance. “

In support of the view of the Administration's strategy, which was not yet in place when either the House of Representatives passed the FY18 defense appropriations act earlier this year or when the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee released its Chairman's Mark, as well as the overwhelmingly bipartisan support for the FY18 NDAA (section 1243), we respectfully request that you appropriate funds to match the recently enacted \$58 million authorization in any defense appropriations legislation for the remainder of fiscal year 2018.

If there is any hope of bringing Russia back into compliance with the INF Treaty, we must begin taking concrete actions to demonstrate to Vladimir Putin that violations of international treaties have consequences. Your support is vital to ensure that Russia cannot obtain a military advantage over the United States from its violation of this treaty.

Sincerely,



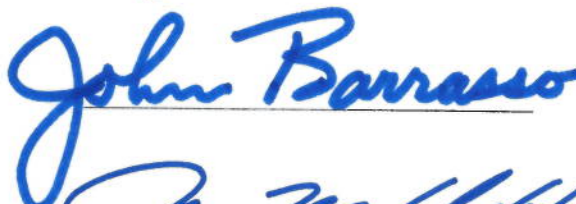
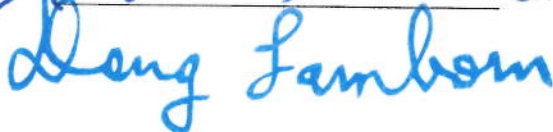
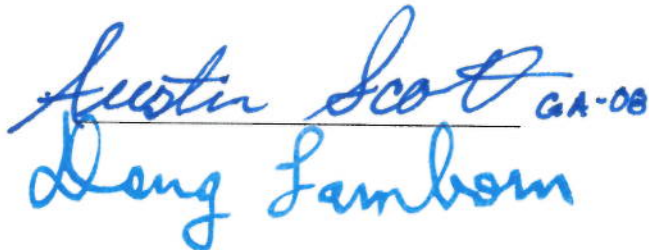
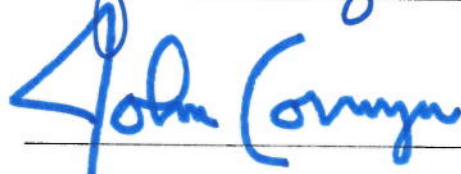
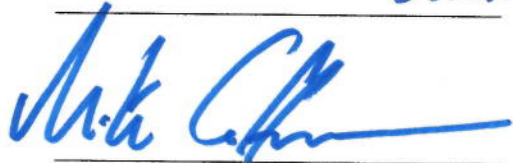
Mike Rogers  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces



Tom Cotton  
U.S. Senator



Michael N. Jensen



*Jim Banks*

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