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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4312

October 26, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

I write to request an inventory assessment of United States defense articles currently located in the War Reserve Stocks for Allies – Israel (WRSA-I). According to reports, President Biden transferred hundreds of thousands of 155 mm artillery shells from WRSA-I to Ukraine earlier this year.<sup>1</sup> As Congress is slated to consider legislation in support of Israel’s defense, it is important for Congress to be fully informed as to what munitions are available in WRSA-I and the extent to which the Biden administration has depleted this stockpile to support Ukraine’s war effort.

The United States stores mission-essential defense articles in WRSA-I that the administration can make rapidly available for Israel in emergencies. Israel has tapped into this American stockpile on at least two occasions, and it serves as insurance to support Israel’s ability to defend itself during armed conflicts. Congress recently authorized additions of defense articles in Israel up to \$400 million in value for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and 2025 in the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act.<sup>2</sup>

As Israel continues to defend itself from Hamas and other regional terrorist groups under the sponsorship of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is imperative to the United States’ national security interests that Israel has the tools it needs to win and deter their adversaries. As you are aware, *10 USC 2229a* requires an annual report to Congress on the prepositioned materiel and equipment in various U.S. stockpiles. It is unclear whether this reporting requirement has been consistently applied to WRSA. I request an assessment, either in public or classified form, of the current inventory of weapons in the WRSA-I to assist Congress’ ability to properly advance legislation in support of Israel.

Thank you for your assistance on this important matter.



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/17/us/politics/ukraine-israel-weapons.html#:~:text=WASHINGTON%20%E2%80%94%20The%20Pentagon%20is%20tapping,use%20in%20Middle%20East%20conflicts.https://www.axios.com/2023/01/18/us-sends-israel-stored-weapons-ukraine>

<sup>2</sup> <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf>

cc:

Dr. William A. LaPlante  
Under Secretary  
Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment