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One Hundred Sixteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Mark T. Esper  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Esper:

We write to express our deep concern with the decision to divert millions of dollars from the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI) to President Trump's border wall. This is a blatant misuse of appropriated funds intended to bolster security and support for our European allies. We urge you to respect Congress' authority and immediately cease the use of these critical funds to prop up President Trump's failed border wall initiative.

Taking funds from the European Deterrence Initiative undermines U.S. security by degrading the mission-readiness of U.S. forces in Europe, renegeing on commitments to our allies and partners, and signaling to Russia that funds meant for Europe are at risk of being hijacked for other purposes. This sends the wrong message to allies and partners and denies funding critical to our forces at a time when relations between the United States and Russia are at an all-time low and when Russia continues to threaten the United States and our allies. Furthermore, these ill-conceived cuts to our deterrent in Europe directly contradict the Administration's own National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy which call for bolstering our NATO allies and strengthening our deterrent.

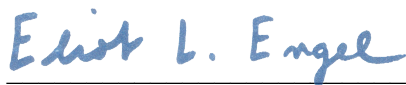
The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
The Honorable Mark T. Esper  
May 8, 2020  
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Russia not only interfered in the 2016 and 2018 elections, but it wages a non-stop disinformation war against the United States and our allies, endangers our men and women in uniform with its aggressive military activities in the Middle East and elsewhere, illegally occupies parts of Ukraine and Georgia, and continues to hold American citizens hostage. And even now, in the midst of a major global health crisis, President Putin is actively exploiting the world's suffering by pushing anti-Western disinformation narratives and further undermining our interests and security.

President Trump's inability to secure funding for his border wall is not a reasonable justification to circumvent the Congress' constitutional authority to appropriate funds. While the President concocts a misleading narrative about a national emergency on the southern border in order to divert funds to the wall, the threat of Russian aggression to the United States and to our allies and partners in Europe is tangible.

Four Secretaries of Defense, three Secretaries of State, and both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate have supported the EDI because we know it is crucial to U.S. national security and the security of our allies and partners. We therefore urge you to make clear that we remain committed to deterring Russian aggression against the United States and our allies and partners by restoring EDI funds for their intended purpose.

Sincerely,



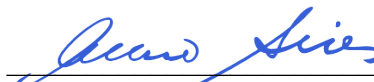
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Chairman



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Europe,  
Eurasia, and the Environment



GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



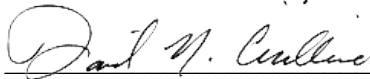
ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress

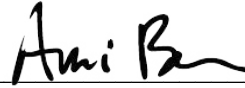


TED DEUTCH  
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE

Member of Congress



AMI BERA

Member of Congress



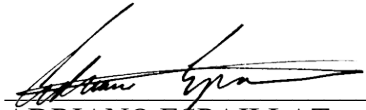
JOAQUIN CASTRO

Member of Congress



DINA TITUS

Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

Member of Congress



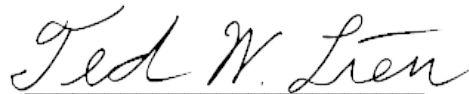
BRAD SHERMAN

Member of Congress




DAVID TRONE

Member of Congress



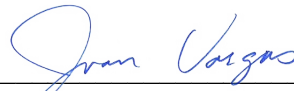
TED W. LIEU

Member of Congress



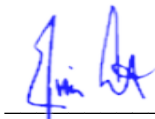
COLIN ALLRED

Member of Congress



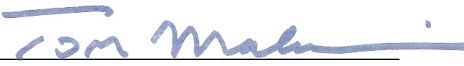
JUAN VARGAS

Member of Congress



JIM COSTA

Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI

Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ

Member of Congress

CC:

National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien  
Deputy National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger

