Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you work towards a final conference report for the Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA, we write to express our strong support for the inclusion of a bipartisan amendment to prohibit an unauthorized and unconstitutional war with Iran.

House Amendment 423, a bipartisan amendment offered by Representatives Ro Khanna (D-CA), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), and 86 additional members was adopted by a strong bipartisan vote of 251 to 170. A bipartisan majority of the Senate also supported a similar amendment offered by Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Rand Paul (R-KY). Both of these amendments would prohibit the use of funds for military force against Iran unless authorized by Congress or such use of force is consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

We have no illusions about the potential threats that Iran may pose or its destabilizing activities in the Middle East. These bipartisan amendments do not interfere with the United States Armed Forces' ability to defend themselves. But under our constitution, any war requires congressional authorization.

Bipartisan majorities in both chambers have spoken up to defend Congress' constitutional authority over matters of war and peace. With regional tensions high, the risk of the U.S. entering into war with Iran without authorization remains acute. As a result, we believe that the final conference report for the FY 2020 NDAA must include the bipartisan amendment to prohibit an unauthorized and unconstitutional war with Iran.

Thank you for your work on the FY 2020 NDAA and we look forward to working with you on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall  
United States Senator

Ro Khanna  
United States Representative

Rand Paul  
United States Senator

Matt Gaetz  
United States Representative
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Michael S. Lee
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress