

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The recent November 13th terrorist attacks in Paris, France denote a foreboding time for the United States and our NATO allies. This coordinated attack by ISIS brings stark comparisons to the terrorist attacks that struck our nation on September 11, 2001. In one of America's darkest days, our NATO allies unanimously banded together to invoke Article V of the NATO treaty, reaffirming their support for our nation, working to defend our skies and rapidly responding to terrorist organizations abroad. The November 13th attacks should be similarly regarded as a declaration of war against a NATO ally and responded to in kind.

In this light, we urge the United States to reassure our NATO allies that at their request, we stand ready to invoke Article V. While France recently invoked the European Union's article 42.7 mutual defense clause, Congress believes it is in our best interest to demonstrate leadership with our European partners by robustly deliberating the need to invoke Article V.

Given the gravity of the atrocities committed against our French allies, it is important to dialogue with President Francois Hollande and his defense ministers to determine the added security benefit of invoking this pivotal NATO provision. We must assume that ISIS is in its early stages in its fight against NATO members. Their planning and execution of the Paris, Beirut, and Egyptian airline attacks mark the beginning of new battle lines between ISIS and all NATO allies. Ensuring a robust response through NATO will allow our allies to coherently and effectively respond to this crisis and prevent further atrocities.

In the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks that beset our nation 14 years ago, our NATO allies quickly convened to invoke Article V in support of our nation. It is important now more than ever to show solidarity with our French allies by continuing to deliberate with NATO member countries to develop a unified strategy to restore and maintain security of the region.

NATO importantly operates by consensus, a policy reflected in the decades-long precedent of thoughtfully dialoguing over mutual self-defense obligations. We owe our French allies and all other NATO members an expeditious and earnest dialogue regarding the need to mutually restore and maintain the security of the NATO region.

Should President Hollande opt to call on our NATO allies to invoke Article V, rest assured, we would fully support your efforts to defend our European allies. We look forward to supporting our Commander-in-Chief as you discuss with our NATO allies a path forward to protect and defend people against further threats to their safety and security.

Sincerely,



Todd Young
Member of Congress



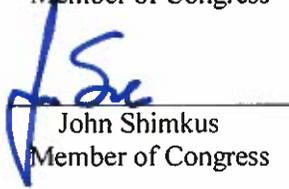
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



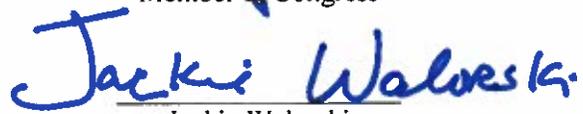
Susan Brooks
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress