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November 4, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Biden:

We write to express our concern regarding reports that Iran resourced and encouraged a drone attack on October 20, 2021, at an American military outpost in southern Syria, where U.S. troops are based.¹ We have continued to watch Iran attack U.S. troops and our allies in the Middle East, while increasing its nuclear activities. These threats are ongoing, and your administration continues to weaken our ability to combat the Iranian regime by lifting U.S. sanctions.

As you are aware, in 2014 U.S. troops were sent to train Syrian opposition forces to contain the threat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.² As your administration is in ongoing talks with Iran to re-enter the nuclear deal, we are concerned about Iran's involvement in the attack at the al-Tanf base where roughly 200 U.S. troops are located.³ According to U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East, this was a "deliberate and coordinated" attack on U.S. troops.⁴

During a time of heightened tensions in the Middle East, it sends a dangerous message to our friends and adversaries that we continue to lift sanctions and negotiate with the largest state sponsor of terrorism as they attack us. This attack is yet another reminder that your administration is setting the wrong priorities by working to re-enter the Iran nuclear deal. If Iran is willing to engage in this kind of behavior while negotiations are still ongoing, imagine the respect they will have for any agreement once the ink is dry.

Sincerely,

BRYAN STEIL
Member of Congress

ALEX X. MOONEY
Member of Congress

RANDY K. WEBER
Member of Congress

DAN CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/10/25/iran-syria-drone-attack-517096>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-drone-attack-us-syria-military-base/>

³ <https://www.newsweek.com/us-mission-syria-failure-dont-turn-it-catastrophe-opinion-1641401>

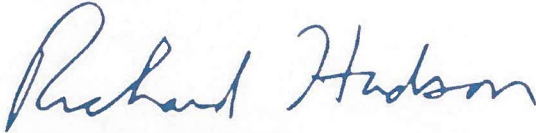
⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/20/politics/drone-attack-syria/index.html>



TED BUDD
Member of Congress



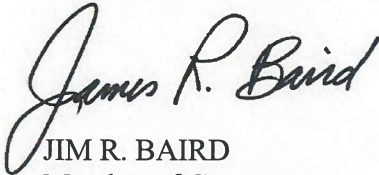
BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
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