

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

We write to express our serious concern regarding the announcement that the Department of Defense will remove 700 U.S. service members from Romania on NATO's Eastern Flank. With the war in Ukraine still raging, this move undermines U.S. commitments to Europe and the broader transatlantic alliance. It also undermines President Trump's own commitment to achieving a durable peace in Ukraine.

Since February 2022, Vladimir Putin has waged a brutal war of aggression in Ukraine. In response, the United States has led a global coalition of allies in bolstering Ukraine's defense while also strengthening NATO's resolve and ability to defend itself against a variety of hybrid and kinetic attacks by the Kremlin. Most recently, Russia's drone incursion into Poland, its overflights of Estonian and Romanian territory, and its use of hybrid warfare against NATO demonstrate that this threat is enduring.

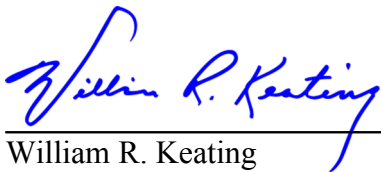
As NATO has strengthened its deterrence, including by agreeing to a 5% of GDP commitment for defense spending, Romania has consistently met NATO requirements and served as a robust and fully capable host for U.S. service members. Alongside contributions to Black Sea defense and its hosting of a U.S. Aegis Ashore missile defense detachment, Bucharest has demonstrated continued resolve in support of NATO's collective defense.

As the administration seeks to secure a lasting peace in Ukraine, we believe it is vital that the United States show strength in the face of Russian aggression. Removing hundreds of U.S. troops from NATO's Eastern Flank as the war in Ukraine rages undermines our bipartisan hope to see the end of the war in Ukraine on Ukraine's terms. This decision provides further ammunition to the Kremlin, which seeks to show that the United States is retreating from Europe just as Ukraine and Europe are most in need of continued U.S. support.

We strongly urge a reconsideration of this decision and an explanation to Congress and the relevant Committees about how the Pentagon intends to bolster the transatlantic relationship and continue its commitments to the NATO alliance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

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Sarah McBride
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcy Kaptur", written over a horizontal line.

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich McCormick", written over a horizontal line.

Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Costa", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Costa
Member of Congress