

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

The last several weeks have been a difficult time as Americans and the world question our nation's leadership and credibility. Under your direction as Commander in Chief, the withdrawal of American troops and interests from Afghanistan was chaotic and deadly. Our nation watched scenes of the hurried retreat, including helicopter airlifts from the U.S. embassy in Kabul, in disbelief and mourned together as 13 servicemembers were killed by terrorists. While the last American servicemember has departed from Afghanistan, untold hundreds of American citizens and billions of dollars in military hardware remain behind in the Taliban controlled nation.

In the period leading up to the withdrawal, your administration made a series of false assurances to the American people and our allies regarding the situation on the ground. The contrast between your Administration's official spin and the reality on the ground revealed a bewildering lack of coherence, strategy, and fundamental transparency. It appeared repeatedly as if your Administration was engaging in a deliberate effort to conceal the truth and mislead the American public. On August 31, new evidence emerged that suggests this is exactly what you have been doing since the start of this operation. A troubling new revelation arose that demands immediate explanation. Reuters released excerpts from a July 23 conversation between yourself and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in which you reportedly pressure Ghani to "project a different picture" than the reality on the ground "whether it is true or not." The transcripts also indicate that you promised to provide air support to the Afghan military, a vow you never fulfilled.

This damning phone call further erodes your credibility and the confidence of the American people in your ability to lead. Your disturbing emphasis on "perception," a term you used four times in the Reuters excerpts of the call with Ghani, over substance and truth demands scrutiny and accountability. We hereby request that you make the full, unedited and unredacted transcripts of your July 23 conversation with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani public so Congress can determine the degree to which you may have deliberately misled the American people leading up to and during this disastrously executed operation. You must provide a more fulsome picture of the events that led to the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Congress has a duty to oversee the Executive. The American people deserve answers and clarity. We urge that your administration expeditiously releases the full transcripts of the call.

Sincerely,



CLAUDIA TENNEY
Member of Congress



ELISE STEFANIK
Member of Congress



ANDREW GARBARINO
Member of Congress



LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress



CHRIS JACOBS
Member of Congress



LISA C. McCLAIN
Member of Congress



BILL POSEY
Member of Congress



JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



TED BUDD
Member of Congress



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress

W. GREGORY STEUBE
Member of Congress

DEBBIE LESKO
Member of Congress

RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress

AUGUST PFLUGER
Member of Congress

ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress

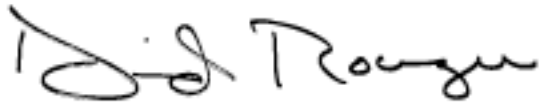
RICK W. ALLEN
Member of Congress

GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress

LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress

DAN BISHOP
Member of Congress

MADISON CAWTHORN
Member of Congress



DAVID ROUZER
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



JODY HICE
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress