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Congress of the United States
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THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

April 8, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write to express my deep concern regarding your recent statements threatening to withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which has been the cornerstone of transatlantic security since 1949. Any unilateral U.S. exit from NATO would be both strategically reckless and blatantly illegal under current law. Moreover, your rhetoric on this issue risks strengthening our adversaries at the expense of our own security.

In recent remarks, you have stated that you are “absolutely” considering withdrawing from NATO and have expressed “disgust with NATO.” You have also suggested that “we don’t need them” and that leaving the alliance is “something that we should think about,” further asserting, “I don’t need Congress for that decision.” These statements raise profound concerns about your Administration’s commitment to the rule of law and to America’s longstanding alliances.

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, Congress enacted binding statutory language prohibiting any president from unilaterally withdrawing from NATO. Specifically, the law provides that the President may not “suspend, terminate, denounce, or withdraw” from NATO except with the consent of two-thirds of the Senate or an act of Congress. This provision has strong bipartisan support and reflects Congress’s constitutional authority over treaty-making provided in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution, which requires Senate consent for treaties. Congress has acted to ensure that dismantling one of the most consequential alliances in American history cannot be done by executive action alone, and doing so would be flagrantly illegal.

Abandoning NATO would undermine U.S. credibility with allies and partners worldwide, embolden adversaries such as Russia and China, weaken collective deterrence at a time of heightened global instability, and erode decades of bipartisan American leadership in building a stable international order. Even absent formal withdrawal, rhetoric questioning U.S. commitment to NATO risks damaging the alliance’s deterrent power, as its strength depends not only on legal commitments, but on the credibility of American leadership.

I strongly urge you to reverse course and recognize the clear requirements of U.S. law. We must strengthen—not weaken or question—the alliances that have preserved peace and security for generations.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress