

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting  
Carolyn White, Clerk  
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

March 20, 2011  
Congressman David Price

Dear Congressman Price:

As your constituents we have long appreciated your principled work exemplified by actions such as:

- Your opposition to the war in Iraq coupled with your strong advocacy for diplomacy,
- Your leadership in building democratic institutions through the House Democracy Partnership,
- Your efforts to bring government contractors to accountability, and
- Your courageous vote last year among only 34 House members not to dismiss the Goldstone Report detailing possible war crimes in Gaza and Israel.

On February 6 at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, you made a strong plea for considering major reductions in our bloated military budget and redirecting funds for domestic needs. In speaking of the military cuts proposed by President Obama, you said "I think there are some promising efforts that we could build on and should build on."

Based on your presentation we are deeply concerned by your recent votes on military spending:

- Not to reduce the number of U.S. troops stationed in Europe (Amdt.46 to H.R. 1),
- Not to reduce the military funds for Afghanistan (Amdt.232 to H.R. 1),
- Not to cancel the second F-35 engine (Amdt.16 to H.R. 1),
- Not to reduce Department of Defense expenses to the 2008 level (Amdt.150 to H.R.1)
- Not to remove troops from Afghanistan pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, (House Concurrent Resolution 28).

On the other hand, we are pleased to note you voted

- To cut expenses for the Marines' expeditionary vehicle (Roll Call 102)
- To cut expenses for the Osprey (Roll Call 102)

We agree with and applaud your concern for supporting the Afghan people and their democratic institutions you have worked to promote. To achieve that purpose we are convinced that our military occupation is counterproductive and that war is not the answer.

We urge you to co-sign the letter circulated by Rep. Barbara Lee to President Obama which "expresses support for his planned drawdown of the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan beginning no later than July of this year."

"This letter would articulate the expectations of Members of Congress that the forthcoming reduction of U.S. troop levels must be significant and sizeable, and executed in an orderly fashion. A significant redeployment of U.S. troops from Afghanistan beginning in July 2011 will send a clear signal that the United States does not seek a permanent presence in Afghanistan. This course of action is supported by the majority of the American people, as shown by a recently released Gallup Poll indicating that 72% of Americans favor action this year to "speed up the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan."

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

Carolyn White, Clerk  
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