

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 2333
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3415

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105-C CORPORATE DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 931-1003
(800) 351-1697

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

February 6, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Today in The Hill newspaper there was an article titled "War Power Game Change," which discusses the probability that the president would request a new authorization to use military force.

Over the past 14 years, Iraq and Afghanistan has cost the American taxpayer both financially and personally. We have spent over \$1.5 trillion and lost over 6,800 brave men and women. Additionally, thousands of service members have been injured, both mentally and physically.

When the President submits a request for the use of military force, we request that you schedule adequate time for proper debate on the House floor. The last authorization for use of military force was brought to the House floor for debate on October 8, 2002. The House gave its full attention to this joint resolution and debated the contents for more than 26 hours over three full days. Ultimately, this bill became law on October 16, 2002. The dynamic and complex world we find ourselves in now demands that we give the same attention to a new request for military force. As James Madison said, "The power to declare war, including the power of judging the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the legislature."

It is our constitutional responsibility to have this full debate. As you know, committing a young man or woman to die for our country is the most difficult decision a member of Congress will have to make. As such, we respectfully ask that you, the leader of our House, provide the same amount of time for debate that was given in 2002 so that members of Congress may give this matter the attention it so richly deserves.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress