

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request the status of the National Security Strategy Report of the United States. Pursuant to 50 U.S.C. §404(a) (2008), the President of the United States is required to provide this comprehensive report to Congress not later than 150 days after taking office. Over 270 days has elapsed and the White House has yet to submit its strategy to us, as required by law. Given the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as numerous other global threats to U.S. interests, including the Middle East, Latin America, and North Korea, an articulated strategy is critical for addressing further potentially destabilizing events in those regions. The absence of a detailed strategy not only places this Congress at a disadvantage, but it also harms the morale of our military and civilian forces on the front lines of our defense. Moreover, the lack of a formal policy erodes public confidence that the government has a strategic approach, giving the impression that our policy is *ad hoc* and reactive, responding to crises only as they arise.

The Armed Services Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee are among several committees responsible for assessing the Administration's strategy. This includes an in-depth evaluation of the plan, as well as the administrative, bureaucratic, and monetary resources devoted to its implementation. Without a formal, articulated national security strategy, we are unable to assess whether the United States is adequately prepared to protect Americans against domestic and international threats.

We therefore request that your Administration immediately provide us with the status of the National Security Strategy Report. This should include a projected timeline of completion, as well as a justification for its delay. Please provide this information no later than November 10, 2009.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. Should your staff require further information, they may reach Thomas Alexander of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, or Roger Zakheim of the Armed Services Committee, at (202) 225-5074 and (202) 226-4444, respectively.

Respectfully,



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform