SSCI# 2012-2217

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We write to urge the State Department to immediately designate the Haqqani Network as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).

Last week, our travel to Afghanistan for meetings with President Karzai, Ambassador Crocker, General Allen, and many military, intelligence, and State Department officers serving in Afghanistan reaffirmed concerns substantiated by intelligence and our oversight work. It was clear that the Haqqani Network continues to launch sensational and indiscriminate attacks against U.S. interests in Afghanistan and the group poses a continuing threat to innocent men, women, and children in the region.

There is no question that the Haqqani Network meets the following criteria for FTO designation specified in Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act:

(1) The organization is foreign;
(2) The organization engages in terrorist activity; and
(3) The terrorist activity threatens the security of United States citizens or the national security of the United States.

On November 1, 2011, the State Department wrote that it was engaged in the "final formal review" on whether to designate the group as a FTO. Six months have now passed, and the Haqqanis have continued to attack U.S. troops and the U.S. Embassy in Kabul during that period.

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We understand there may have been reluctance within the Administration to designate the Haqqani Network while Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman attempted to negotiate a reconciliation agreement with the Taliban—a deal that may have included or affected the Haqqani Network. However, Ambassador Crocker told us last week that there have been no such talks since late last year, and that President Karzai has opposed their continuation.

Without commenting on the appropriateness of any such agreement, it is clear that there is now no reason not to to designate the Haqqani Network as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and urge such action immediately

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving your written response.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
Chairman, SSCI

M.C

Mike Rogers
Chairman, HPSCI

Saxby Chambliss
Vice Chairman, SSCI

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Ranking Member, HPSCI

cc: Mr. Tom Donilon, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs