

*Dear Senator:*

*We support, strongly and without qualification, President Obama's nomination of Chuck Hagel to be the next Secretary of Defense. Most of us have known the Senator for a decade or more and consistently have found him to be one of the best informed leaders in the U.S. Congress on national security issues. Senator Hagel's credentials for the job are impeccable. As a decorated Vietnam veteran, a successful entrepreneur in the private sector, and a two-term United States senator, he brings exceptional qualifications and experience to the Department of Defense, particularly at this time of budget constraint and challenges in reshaping America's military power while keeping it strong for the coming decades.*

*Senator Hagel's political courage has impressed us all. He has stood and argued publicly for what he believes is best for the United States. Time and again, he has chosen to take the path of standing up for our nation, rather than the path of political expediency. He has always supported the pillars of American foreign policy: a strong military; a robust Atlantic partnership; a commitment to the security of Israel, as a friend and ally; a determination to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons; and the defense of human rights as a core principle of America's role in the world.*

*We have spent most of our lives in the service of our country, deeply committed to America's security and the example of our democracy. Many of us served in the U.S. armed services and most of us have served for decades as professional diplomats. We are, by profession, non-partisan and have served loyally under Presidents from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. We come from virtually every part of this nation and represent a broad spectrum of Americans.*

*Most of us have had the opportunity to work with Senator Hagel on Middle East policy and other aspects of foreign relations. He has those rarest of qualities: good judgment and common sense. He listens, learns, and takes wise positions that advance the interests and security of the United States. He has repeatedly demonstrated his strong support for Israel and for a two state solution, and has opposed those who would undermine or threaten Israel's security.*

*We are greatly encouraged and proud that President Obama has chosen Chuck Hagel to serve our nation again, this time as Secretary of Defense. Few are as qualified, courageous, or well equipped to head the Department of Defense at this critical moment as the nation seeks to strengthen America's role in this changing world.*

*We urge speedy confirmation of this outstanding American patriot to be the next Secretary of Defense.*

*Sincerely,*

- John Beyrle, former Ambassador to Russia and Bulgaria*
- Barbara K. Bodine, former Ambassador to Yemen*

- *Avis Bohlen, former Ambassador to Bulgaria and former Assistant Secretary for Arms Control*
- *Nicholas Burns, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador to NATO and Greece*
- *Elinor Constable, former Ambassador to Kenya*
- *Edwin G. Corr, former Ambassador to Peru, Bolivia and El Salvador*
- *Ryan Crocker, former Ambassador to Iraq and Afghanistan.*
- *Ruth A. Davis, former Ambassador to Benin and former Director General of the US Foreign Service*
- *James Dobbins, former Ambassador to the European Community and Assistant Secretary of State for Europe*
- *John Gunther Dean, former ambassador to Cambodia, Denmark, Lebanon, Thailand, and India*
- *Edward Djerejian, former Ambassador to Israel and Syria*
- *Nancy Ely-Raphel, former Ambassador to Slovenia*
- *Robert Gelbard, Former Ambassador to Indonesia and Bolivia and Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement*
- *James Goodby, former Ambassador to Finland*
- *William Harrop, former Ambassador to Israel and State Department Inspector General*
- *Ulric Haynes, Jr. former Ambassador to Algeria*
- *Christopher Hill, former Ambassador to Iraq*
- *Carla Hills, former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*
- *H. Allen Holmes, former Ambassador to Portugal and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations*
- *Thomas L. Hughes, former Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State*
- *Dennis Jett, former Ambassador to Mozambique and Peru*
- *Craig Johnstone, former Ambassador to Algeria*
- *Theodore Kattouf, former Ambassador to United Arab Emirates and Syria*
- *Daniel Kurtzer, former Ambassador to Israel and Egypt*
- *Sam Lewis, former Ambassador to Israel*
- *William H. Luers, former Ambassador to Venezuela and Czechoslovakia*
- *Dick McCormack, former Ambassador to the Organization of American States and United States Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs*
- *Thomas E. McNamara, former Ambassador to Colombia and Ambassador-at-Large for Counterterrorism, and Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs*
- *Tom Miller, former Ambassador to Greece and Bosnia-Herzegovina*
- *William G. Miller, former Ambassador to Ukraine*
- *Richard Murphy, former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Syria, the Philippines*
- *Cameron Munter, former ambassador to Pakistan and Serbia*

- *Ronald Neuman, former Ambassador Afghanistan, Algeria and Bahrain*
- *Joseph Nye, former Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security*
- *Robert B. Oakley, former Ambassador to Pakistan, Somalia, and Zaire*
- *Phyllis E. Oakley, former Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research and Refugees*
- *W. Robert Pearson, former Ambassador to Turkey*
- *Pete Peterson, former Ambassador to Vietnam*
- *Thomas R. Pickering, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador to Israel, India Jordan, Russia and the United Nations*
- *Steven Pifer, former Ambassador to Ukraine*
- *Howard B. Schaffer, former Ambassador to Bangladesh*
- *Patrick Theros, former Ambassador to Qatar*
- *Nicholas Veliotis, former Ambassador to Jordan and Egypt*
- *Richard Viets, former Ambassador to Jordan, Tanzania, and Portugal*
- *Edward Walker, former Ambassador to Egypt, Israel and the United Arab Emirates*
- *Jennone Walker, former Ambassador to the Czech Republic*
- *John Whitehead, former Deputy Secretary of State*
- *Ross Wilson, former Ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan*
- *Frank G. Wisner, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Ambassador to Egypt and India*