Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2018

Hon. Secretary James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Mattis,

We write to express our strong opposition to recent reporting indicating the White House will seek to pay for its proposed "border wall" using U.S. Department of Defense funding. Not only is such a proposal unsound and unnecessary on its merits, such budgetary maneuvering risks depleting critical military accounts dedicated to rebuilding the readiness and capabilities of our armed forces.

Moreover, we are strongly concerned that politicized attempts to shift funding from the Defense Department jeopardize much needed accounts you and your service secretaries have repeatedly testified to the importance of preserving. Maintaining steady funding for weapons replenishment, modernization of our ground forces, needed training and readiness, and other technologies to ensure our warfighters are able to defeat our adversaries is critical to our national defense. Constructing an unnecessary border wall is not the intent or purpose of the funding we in Congress authorize and appropriate to the Department.

We support border security measures that keep our country safe, however, building a border wall would not measurably strengthen our homeland security and would be excessively costly, harmful, and a waste of taxpayer resources. Moreover, using critical Department of Defense funding to do so undermines our national security and the budgetary stability we have sought to provide our service members.

Finally, we would like to point out that FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act does not authorize funding for the construction of a border wall. We respectfully request a statement of your next steps to be taken with this border wall request.

Sincerely,

Beto O'Rourke

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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John Garamendi
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