THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 25, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Today the House will consider H.Con.Res. 105, a resolution introduced by Representative James McGovern, Representative Walter Jones, and Representative Barbara Lee. We appreciate the House debate on Iraq, and its readiness to vote on a resolution consistent with the Administration's views.

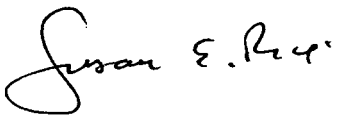
As the President unequivocally stated in late June, "American forces will not be returning to combat in Iraq, but we will help Iraqis as they take the fight to terrorists who threaten the Iraqi people, the region, and American interests as well."

The President has also made clear that if American interests are threatened, "we will be prepared to take targeted and precise military action if and when we determine that the situation on the ground requires it." The President has made exceedingly clear that he will consult closely with Congress and leaders in Iraq and in the region.

While we understand the House of Representatives will consider this resolution that supports the President's position, we believe a more appropriate and timely action for Congress to take is the repeal of the outdated 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq (P.L. 107-243). With American combat troops having completed their withdrawal from Iraq on December 18, 2011, the Iraq AUMF is no longer used for any U.S. government activities and the Administration fully supports its repeal. Such a repeal would go much further in giving the American people confidence that ground forces will not be sent into combat in Iraq.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Congress on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Susan E. Rice
Assistant to the President for
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The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515