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June 10, 2020

The Honorable Mark T. Esper
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Esper:

I write you today to express my profound frustration at your lack of response to my June 3, 2020 letter. It is unacceptable that, except for staff communication, you have not responded to our formal written request that you and Chairman Milley appear before the committee for a hearing on the Department's roles and authorities in civilian law enforcement. We understand that the White House may be preventing you from testifying, obstructing Congress' ability to conduct its constitutionally charged oversight responsibility. Therefore, I ask that you coordinate with the committee to provide your and Chairman Milley's availability no later than June 11, 2020 so that we can schedule a hearing. Without your cooperation, the committee will be forced to set a hearing date and time without your input.

Further, also on June 3, 2020, I sent a letter asking a series of essential questions about the use of military forces in response to peaceful protestors in the District of Columbia, the movement of active duty troops to staging areas around the country's capital, and plans to deploy active duty troops around the United States should the President invoke the Insurrection Act. The responses were due yesterday, June 9, 2020. The letter requires a response and these questions cannot be left unanswered. It is imperative that you provide answers to these questions immediately.

I remain committed to working with you on these critical issues, which will require the combined efforts of both our organizations to better understand what actually transpired and what we must learn going forward, to ensure the military remains one of the most respected and trusted institutions in the country.

Sincerely,

Adam Smith
Chairman

AS:wjt

CC: General Mark Milley
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
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