

Dear Representative (*enter her/his name here*)

I am one of the 60 to 70 per cent of U.S. citizens who believe it is time to end the war on Afghanistan. It is time for an orderly withdrawal of our troops and mercenaries from that country.

Thus I strongly support the common sense approach in [HR 780](#), introduced by Representative Barbara Lee. It is a bi-partisan bill with 63 co-sponsors and its sentiments are shared by millions in our country: right, left and center.

U.S. taxpayers can no longer afford the cost of that war, already at close to half a trillion dollars. Other costs are far higher, including loss of our own best values and our reputation as a nation committed to democracy and human rights.

We can't afford to continue winning enemies throughout the Muslim world by use of the most sophisticated weapons ever created against one of the world's poorest nations. Most of these weapons have been satellite guided, from cruise missiles to mortar launchers and artillery shells

For instance, the spectacle of targeted assassinations of suspected militants by "unmanned drones" has cost us millions of potential friends not only among Muslims, but around the world. There is something repulsive about planes piloted by young men and women, safe in the USA, while manipulating joy sticks in front of computer screens., intent on making their kills from half a world away.

We can't afford to risk losing Pakistan to a hostile nuclear armed military government because of those bombings and CIA covert actions. The proposed oil and gas pipelines slated to pass through Afghanistan cannot be built or operated in the hostile climate our "war fighters" are creating there.

Our country and our people are better than this. We want to be a beacon for others drawn to democracy and human rights. It is time for us all to reflect on Barbara Lee's bill, on where we are going and where we need to go. It is time to withdraw and help the healing begin. The way will be difficult, but war has not been and never will be the answer.