

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2002

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You asked for and received my support for H.J.Res 114, which gives you the authority to enforce UN Security Council resolutions requiring Saddam Hussein to disarm his weapons of mass destruction, peacefully hopefully, militarily if necessary. Now I would like to reaffirm my reasons to you for this vote.

I share with you a deep concern of the growing threat Saddam Hussein poses to our national security and the security of the world if he does not disarm. With my vote, I trust you when you say that our goal to disarm Saddam Hussein will not interfere with our number one national security objective: the war on terrorism.

In addition, I trust you when you say that this resolution does not make military action inevitable; that the use of force will be a last resort, not a first option, and that you and your administration will continue to work through the UN Security Council to gather international support throughout the world and especially in the Persian Gulf region. I deeply believe that it would be disastrous to our long-term national security interests if the United States takes unilateral military action against Saddam. I cannot impress upon you more strongly my belief that a broad-based international coalition, similar to what your father accomplished in the Gulf War, is essential to the long-term success of our vital interests in the region. I also believe you when you say that we will have an obligation, if Saddam Hussein is removed from power, to help maintain the peace and rebuild Iraq. Again, this will require as much international support as possible.

Finally, with the passage of the resolution, the final decision to use military force now rests in your hands alone. It is, however, essential that you continue to work with Congress by seeking our advice and consent, and keeping us informed through periodic administration briefings on the actions to which you are committing our nation. In short, now that Congress has entrusted to your leadership the decision to enforce UN Security Council resolutions and dismantle Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction program, you need to fly our ship of state safely and land it safely as well.

I pray that these objectives can be accomplished peacefully with patience and perseverance. I pray that you will exhaust all diplomatic alternatives first, but I also pray that if force is

ultimately required, that you obtain the international support necessary to ensure long-term success in our goals.

No American president would commit young American lives in a dangerous military operation without considering and pursuing all viable alternatives first. I am confident you fully understand the perils of military action in Iraq, and I am equally confident that you will exercise the sound judgement and decision-making that we in Congress and the American people have entrusted in you.

May God bless you and guide you in the decisions you will make in the coming months, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron", written in a cursive style.

Ron Kind
Member of Congress