

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC  
20510

April 26, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As co-chairs of the Senate NATO Observer Group, we write to convey bipartisan priorities from the U.S. Senate ahead of the annual North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit, which will be held in Washington in July. Hosting the NATO Summit as we celebrate 75 years of the most successful Alliance in history sends a strong message to our allies and adversaries alike that the United States remains committed to the principles and values which underpin our collective security. We hope that you will take our requests into consideration as you develop the agenda and proposed outcomes of the NATO Summit:

- *Continued support for Ukraine:* For more than two years, NATO countries have provided Ukraine with the resources and weapons it needs to defeat Putin and win this war. We expect the Summit to address key security guarantees that will bolster Ukraine's ability to achieve victory. We believe Ukraine should be offered a realistic path to NATO membership once all NATO Alliance members agree that Ukraine has met the conditions and requirements for membership. We must send an unmistakable message to Putin that Ukraine's future lies firmly with Europe. As proven by the additions of Finland and Sweden to the Alliance over the past two years, the unity and strength of NATO only continues to grow. On the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we must make clear that Putin's imperialist actions should not impede the NATO membership aspirations of sovereign nations.
- *Recognition of NATO-Indo-Pacific Partnership:* We hope that the Summit will demonstrate a continued recognition of the multidimensional challenges in the Indo-Pacific theater. We welcomed NATO's 2022 Strategic Concept which acknowledged the challenge that the People's Republic of China (PRC) presents to transatlantic security. The PRC also threatens NATO's shared values, which have guided the success of the Alliance for more than 70 years. We regret that consideration of a NATO office in Japan does not have support from all NATO allies but urge you to consider other concrete deliverables to deepen our partnerships in response to the varying issues confronting NATO in the region, including through bolstering economic ties and investments with partners in the Indo-Pacific. This could also include a broadened definition of resilience that would identify how PRC investments in telecommunications, infrastructure, for example, pose possible security risks to the Alliance.
- *Defense Spending:* Ahead of the Washington Summit, we hope that all allies recognize bipartisan interest in robust defense spending. At the Vilnius Summit last year, the Alliance acknowledged that two percent should be the floor – not the ceiling – for defense spending commitments. Substantial progress has been made by allies to spend at least two

percent of national Gross Domestic Product on defense, with 18 allies due to meet the target by the end of this year. However, more must be done to ensure every Ally has a plan to meet their commitment. NATO allies like Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and others have exceeded the two percent level and pledged to continue to invest in defense. The United States deeply appreciates these efforts and we hope that Canada, Spain, Italy and Portugal will come to Washington with a plan in place to meet the same commitment agreed to by all allies.

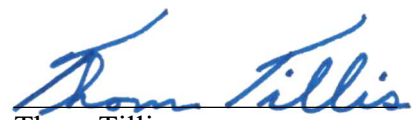
- *Women, Peace and Security:* In 2022, NATO updated its Strategic Concept to include the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and institutionalize the agenda's objectives as adopted by the United Nations with Security Council Resolution 1325. In 2017, the United States became the first country in the world to enact through legislation a comprehensive Women, Peace and Security WPS strategy to promote the equity and equality of women in all peace and conflict work. The U.S. must continue to be a global leader of the WPS agenda by hosting a meeting on NATO's Women, Peace and Security Policy with member nations and civil society organizations.
- *Participation of NATO Partners:* We recognize the difficulty in accommodating participation of all NATO allies and our more than 40 partners. We believe that it is important, however, to ensure that Indo-Pacific partners from Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea are invited to participate in the Summit at the head-of-state level. We also believe that heads of state from NATO aspirant countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Ukraine – should be invited at the head-of-state level to demonstrate our enduring commitment to advancing their NATO membership.
- *Senate Involvement:* This year's NATO Summit should also include Members of the U.S. Senate to provide a reinforcing message to our allies and partners that support for NATO in the United States is resilient and bipartisan. We encourage you to work with Congressional leadership to allow for NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to address a joint session of Congress. We also welcome onward travel by NATO leaders to our home states, where our allies can support our efforts to communicate the importance of the transatlantic Alliance at the local level.

The United States must continue to play a leading role in maintaining and strengthening transatlantic unity at this critical moment for the Alliance. We look forward to working with your Administration to deliver on the priorities we have addressed.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator