

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

As Members of Congress, we write to request that the Department of Defense provide clarification on the extent to which existing authorities and appropriations provided to respond to the situation in Ukraine allow for U.S.–Ukraine collaboration, not only in the co-production of tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems and other unmanned platforms, but also in the full operational ecosystem that supports them. We also urge the the Department to fully leveraging existing authorities and appropriations to enable immediate operational collaboration with Ukrainian partners in the unmanned and autonomous domain.

Our request for a U.S.–Ukraine co-production and operational partnership is directly aligned with the goals spirit of the President’s vision for a stronger, more innovative American military. We note that several of America’s adversaries are already leveraging operational experience from the war in Ukraine to advance their own unmanned, autonomous, and AI-enabled warfare programs—further underscoring the urgency of deepened U.S. engagement and collaboration in this domain. Our goal is twofold: to help Ukraine secure itself now and to bring that operational knowledge and production capacity back to the United States to strengthen our own long-term drone dominance. A strong and victorious Ukraine is not only in the United States’ national security interest, but also for deterring China’s ambitions in Asia.

We respectfully request that the Department address the following points in a written response by 15 December, 2025:

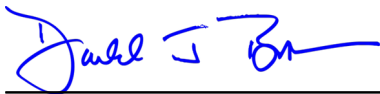
1. Whether current appropriations provided to respond to the situation in Ukraine allow the obligation of funds or contracting for co-production, operational deployment, licensing, data-sharing, and technology collaboration with Ukrainian defense and industrial partners.
2. Whether the Department identifies any constraints, under current law or internal policy, that would limit its ability to implement such cooperative production and operational programs.
3. What contracting, export control, data management, and oversight mechanisms would be required to carry out such collaboration while safeguarding American national security and ensuring accountability.
4. Which Department component or interagency lead would be responsible for coordinating and managing such collaboration, and how existing innovation mechanisms—such as DIU, AFWERX, SOFWERX, or other rapid acquisition pathways—could be leveraged or adapted to execute it.

A focused effort in this area would strengthen Ukraine’s defense, advance American innovation, and produce significant strategic and economic advantages. By learning alongside Ukraine, the United States can enhance its

own defense industrial base, stimulate domestic job creation, and sharpen our competitive edge against both Russia and China. This collaboration will allow our forces and defense partners to train, adapt, and innovate faster while building a foundation for long-term American technological leadership.

Thank you for your continued service to our nation and your leadership in advancing American drone dominance through innovation, partnership, and strength.

Sincerely,



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



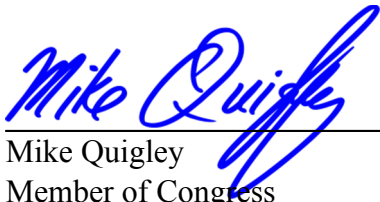
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



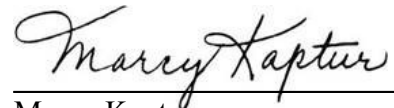
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



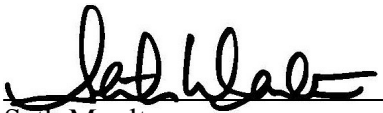
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Pat Harrigan
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress