

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister  
24 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1M 1M4  
Canada

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

As friends of Canada, we write to urge your government to uphold the commitment agreed to by all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Allies at the 2014 Wales Summit and again at the 2023 Vilnius Summit to strengthen our collective security by increasing defense spending levels to two percent of each country's gross domestic product (GDP). As a founding member of NATO, Canada is a valued Ally and has long contributed to essential NATO operations around the world. However, the transatlantic Alliance now faces one of the most severe threat landscapes in its history. As a consequence, we call on all NATO Allies, including Canada, to uphold their commitment to ensure a stronger, sustainable NATO by accelerating efforts to reach the two percent defense spending target set by the Alliance.

This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the greatest Alliance in history. Since its inception, Canada has been a leading Ally in propelling NATO to develop standards around democracy, economic resilience and human rights. These standards have encouraged NATO aspirant countries to align more closely with our shared values and expanded trade opportunities for economies across the North Atlantic while promoting peace and stability on the European continent. In addition, Canada has taken a leading role in support of NATO military operations. We particularly appreciate Canada's leadership of NATO's multinational battlegroup in Latvia, which maintains a strong deterrence presence on the Eastern Flank of the Alliance. As Vladimir Putin's full-scale, unprovoked war against Ukraine continues into its third year, a strong NATO presence in Europe is needed to deter further Russian aggression.

To build on the success of the past 75 years and secure the transatlantic Alliance for the next generation, NATO requires continued investments from each member country. This includes meeting NATO's guidance that all member countries should spend 20 percent of their defense spending on equipment to modernize capabilities, as well as meet and seek to exceed spending two percent of GDP on defense. At the 2023 NATO Summit in Vilnius, all Allies agreed that two percent defense spending levels should be the floor – not the ceiling – of contributions to the Alliance. The 2023 Vilnius Summit agreement reiterated and expanded upon prior agreements of the two percent defense spending baseline, which Canada's Defense Minister and Canada's Head of Government agreed to in 2006 and 2014, respectively. By the end of 2024, 18 NATO countries will meet the Alliance's goal to ensure NATO's continued military readiness. This is a

historic investment in our collective security, led by NATO Allies like Poland, a country that has already exceeded three percent of its GDP for defense spending.

As we approach the 2024 NATO Summit in Washington, D.C., we are concerned and profoundly disappointed that Canada's most recent projection indicated that it will not reach its two percent commitment this decade. In 2029, Canada's defense spending is estimated to rise to just 1.7 percent, five years after the agreed upon deadline of 2024 and still below the spending baseline. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is also in dire need of modernization, a process that can only move forward with direct cooperation from your government. Canada will fail to meet its obligations to the Alliance, to the detriment of all NATO Allies and the free world, without immediate and meaningful action to increase defense spending.

The United States' commitment to NATO is unwavering. Later this year, when the United States hosts the 2024 NATO Summit to lay out priorities for the upcoming year, we will expect your government and every NATO member that has not met the two percent defense spending threshold to have a plan to reach this benchmark as soon as possible. We anticipate a robust partnership between the U.S., Canada and all Allies to achieve the benchmarks the Alliance has identified to enable us to defend democracy, preserve security and expand opportunity.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to our continued close partnership as friends, Allies and neighbors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



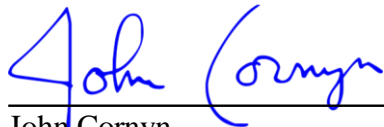
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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



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John Cornyn  
United States Senator



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Pete Ricketts  
United States Senator



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Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



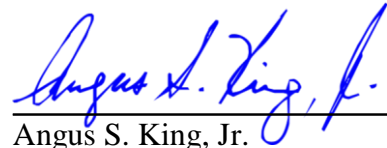
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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



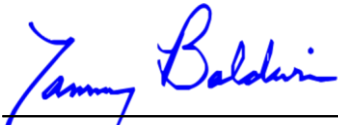
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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



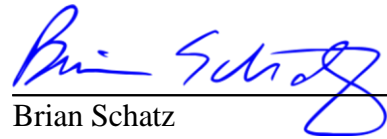
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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



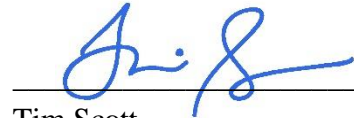
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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



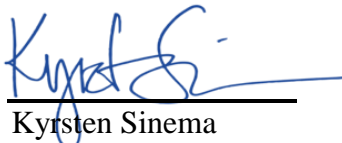
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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



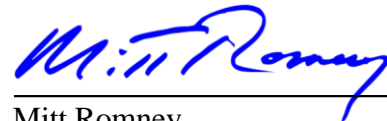
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Tim Scott  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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Mitt Romney  
United States Senator



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Ted Cruz  
United States Senator