

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2013

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As we have travelled across our districts in the past several weeks, Hoosiers have consistently expressed concerns with U.S. involvement in Syria. Without hesitation the use of chemical weapons on civilian populations is abhorrent. However, committing U.S. assets to the conflict in Syria is not something to be taken lightly.

We applaud your decision to seek congressional authorization before taking any military action. After more than a decade spent at war in the Middle East, we believe there are a number of questions that must be considered before authorizing further military action in the region. When you address the nation on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, Hoosiers are looking for direct answers to these questions:

- What are the specific and defined objectives for military action in Syria?
- While your administration has said any engagement in Syria would be “narrow and limited,” how can we be assured of this given the number of contingencies we face?
- Is this simply retaliation and punishment for the use of chemical weapons? If so, why is this endeavor not about “regime change?”
- Do you intend to destroy Syria’s existing chemical weapons without “boots on the ground?”
- Can you ensure that opposition forces in Syria receiving support from the U.S. do not have ties to terrorism? How has your administration vetted these opposition groups?
- How much will U.S. action in Syria cost American taxpayers?

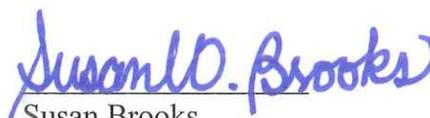
We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your detailed answers as you address the nation on Tuesday. We believe Hoosiers – and all Americans – should have clarity regarding these questions before action is taken in Syria.

Sincerely



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks
Member of Congress