
From: English, Philip
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NDAA CONFERENCE LANGUAGE AND MEETING REQUEST

Greetings Beth and Eric:

This is just a short note of appreciation for the Senate language you drafted in the NDAA conference process respective to the Counter ISIS train and equip program (CTEF). I would urge Senator Wicker to continue to embrace this formulation for the final draft of the NDAA, and would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Senator to make the case for this priority if helpful.

The Senate version of CTEF language would enshrine and broaden protections for Kurds in Iraq, especially with respect to air defense optionality, whereas the House version of the NDAA doesn't articulate similar protections. Our strategic position in the region benefits enormously from the security of our ally, the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, as the Senator clearly appreciates.

I wish to convey that the KRG is deeply grateful for Chairman Wicker's leadership on this issue vital to Kurdish autonomy and security. Please note that this NDAA conference is timely - the Department of War's MOU with the Peshmerga concerning the operation to defeat ISIS is expiring at the end of this month. The MOU was a significant vector for U.S. Kurdish defense collaboration, and its impending expiration will weaken the security umbrella in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

I am deeply indebted to you for your time and attention at a busy time. Please convey my appreciation to the Chairman, and offer again my availability to meet with him or answer your questions. Thank you for your consideration and interest.

*Warmest Regards,
Phil English*

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