



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RO KHANNA

July 29, 2026

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write to express grave concern about your resumption of war with Iran. It is particularly concerning that you have taken this action after the passage last month in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate of H. Con. Res 86, a War Powers Resolution directing you to immediately terminate military hostilities with Iran unless explicitly authorized by Congress. This war of choice has been a self-inflicted disaster that has cost at least 18 American lives and wounded hundreds of other servicemembers, burned through billions of taxpayer dollars, and led to rising prices deepening America's affordability crisis.

The war has also distracted the United States from deterring conflict in other parts of the world, especially China's aggression toward its neighbors in the Indo-Pacific region. Your statement this month, despite its later retraction, that the United States would impose a 20 percent tax on all shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is particularly damaging in this regard. It not only hands China a dangerous new precedent for coercion in the Indo-Pacific but also tramples on the principle of freedom of navigation which American sailors have given their lives defending since our nation's founding 250 years ago. It also directly contradicts your own vice president JD Vance's statement just last month that "international waterways should be free of tolls."¹

Your actions and rhetoric threaten to turn the United States into the predatory bully our nation has so long sought to protect the world against. This conflict must end through tough diplomacy backed by a global coalition of allies and partners, not extortion and blunt force. America must lead the world again as a moral example and enforcer of the global rules that you have acted so readily to violate.

In the meantime, it is paramount that we redirect the vast sums you continue to spend on this war toward rebuilding American industry and investing in our people. The American people want us to focus on improving their livelihoods and economic prospects, not more endless Middle Eastern wars.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

¹ [Trump's Threat to Impose Fees in the Strait of Hormuz Contradicts His Aides - The New York Times](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ro Khanna", written in a cursive style.

Ro Khanna

Ranking Member

U.S. House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party