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GENERAL DAVID M. MADDOX, USA (RET.)  
GENERAL WILLIAM G. T. TUTTLE JR., USA (RET.)  
VICE ADMIRAL LEE F. GUNN, USN (RET.)  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES OTSTOTT, USA (RET.)  
MAJOR GENERAL EUGENE FOX, USA (RET.)  
REAR ADMIRAL JOHN D. HUTSON, USN (RET.)  
MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM L. NASH, USA (RET.)  
MAJOR GENERAL ANTONIO 'TONY' M. TAGUBA, USA (RET.)  
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CULLEN, USA (RET.)  
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN H. JOHNS, USA (RET.)  
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GENERAL CHARLES C. KRULAK, USMC (RET.)  
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LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT G. GARD JR., USA (RET.)  
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BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN ADAMS, USA (RET.)  
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID R. IRVINE, USA (RET.)  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY VERRENGIA, USAF (RET.)

October 7, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

We are members of a nonpartisan group of retired generals and admirals who believe that U.S. counterterrorism policies are strongest when they adhere to the rule of law and American values. As such, we write to applaud your leadership in ensuring that the detainee provisions (Section 1031-1033) in the Senate Armed Services Committee's reported version of the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act do not move forward.

If passed, we believe these provisions would reshape our counterterrorism policies in ways that would undermine our national security and transform our armed forces into judge, jury and jailor for foreign terrorism suspects. The military's mission is to prosecute wars, not terrorists. The bill would expand the military's mission to detain and try a large category of future foreign terror suspects, which falls outside the military's core competence and erodes faith in the judicial process. It would also authorize the indefinite detention without trial of terrorism suspects, including American citizens captured on U.S. soil – a policy that is contrary to the very American values needed to win this fight.

As retired military leaders, we believe in the importance of the underlying bill to sustain the strength of our Armed Services. For that reason, we have been advocating against these provisions, and agree with your statement that our nation:

must maintain the capability and flexibility to effectively apply the full range of tools at our disposal to combat terrorism. This includes the use of our criminal justice system, which has accumulated an impressive record of success in bringing terrorists to justice. Limitations on that flexibility, or on the availability of critical counterterrorism tools, would significantly threaten our national security.

With your commitments this week, you took an important step to avert those threats.

Sincerely,

General Joseph P. Hoar, USMC (Ret.)  
General Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret.)  
General David M. Maddox, USA (Ret.)  
General Merrill A. McPeak, USAF (Ret.)  
General William G. T. Tuttle Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.)  
Lieutenant General Arlen D. Jameson, USAF (Ret.)  
Lieutenant General Charles Otstott, USA (Ret.)  
Lieutenant General Harry E. Soyster, USA (Ret.)  
Major General Eugene Fox, USA (Ret.)  
Rear Admiral Don Guter, USN (Ret.)  
Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, USN (Ret.)  
Major General Melvyn S. Montano, USAF (Ret.)  
Major General William L. Nash, USA (Ret.)  
Major General Thomas J. Romig, USA (Ret.)  
Major General Antonio 'Tony' M. Taguba, USA (Ret.)  
Brigadier General John Adams, USA (Ret.)  
Brigadier General James Cullen, USA (Ret.)  
Brigadier General David R. Irvine, USA (Ret.)  
Brigadier General John H. Johns, USA (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Anthony Verrengia, USAF (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Stephen N. Xenakis, USA (Ret.)