

JOHN B. LARSON
FIRST DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX POLICY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0701

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1501 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-2285
202-225-1031 (FAX)

DISTRICT OFFICE
221 MAIN STREET, SECOND FLOOR
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
860-278-8888
860-278-2111 (FAX)

INTERNET ADDRESS
<http://www.larson.house.gov>
TOLL-FREE NUMBER (IN STATE ONLY):
888-716-4734

August 12, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

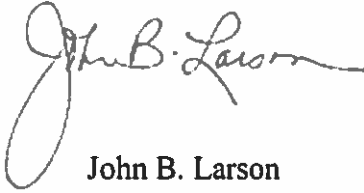
In light of the most recent provocations taken by North Korea, I write to request that you call the House and Senate back into session in order for Congress to fulfill its obligations under the War Powers Resolution as part of our constitutional responsibility.

The events that have transpired this week, the bellicose threats from Kim Jong Un and the President's response, have the nation in a state of high anxiety. All around the country, people are talking about the potential threat of war. Congress is the branch of government closest to the people, and it needs to assert its Constitutional role under Article I, Section 8, and provide a unified response to Kim Jong Un. Congress needs to be involved, briefed and informed. In the same way we acted in unison with sanctions and we must do so with the threat of war as well.

The War Powers Resolution is clear, in the face of an imminent threat to United States or its allies, the President has the authority to use military force. However, Section 3 of the War Powers Resolution requires that the "President in every possible instance shall consult with Congress before introducing United States Armed Forces" into hostilities or imminent hostilities. Therefore, the administration needs to brief Congress on its plans, it needs to clearly lay out the ramifications of any plans if they are put into effect, and spell out an exit strategy.

This nation has been built on principles of checks and balances. Before sending troops into harm's way and exposing our allies to an existential threat, Congress has a Constitutional obligation to weigh in before any further decisions are made. Considering that time is of the essence, I respectfully urge you to call the House and Senate back from recess and request that the Administration presents Congress with its plan of action to deal with the crisis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John B. Larson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CC: Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer
House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi