

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
E. BENJAMIN NELSON, NEBRASKA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI
MARK UDALL, COLORADO
KAY R. HAGAN, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA
JOE MANCHIN III, WEST VIRGINIA
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT

JOHN McCAIN, ARIZONA
JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI
SCOTT P. BROWN, MASSACHUSETTS
ROB PORTMAN, OHIO
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR
ANN E. SAUER, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

October 26, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
1100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1100

The Honorable David H. Petraeus
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Secretary Panetta, Director Petraeus and Attorney General Holder:

We are writing to you to request the immediate declassification of all surveillance video in and around the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi for the two days -- September 11 and 12, 2012 -- that it and related U.S. facilities were under attack. It has been reported that the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of State had assets, both air- and ground-based, that recorded the events of those fateful days, and we understand that video is now in the possession of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has been classified Top Secret.

It is vitally important that the American people know all of the facts surrounding the attack in Benghazi last month, and this surveillance video can shed important light on the nature of the attack and what kind of response could have been effective while it was ongoing. Many of our constituents are demanding answers to these and other important questions, we need the best possible information to fulfill our responsibilities to our fellow citizens. We therefore request that you declassify this video immediately.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator


Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator


Lindsey Graham
United States Senator