

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 10, 2013

Senator Robert Menendez
Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
444 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we respectfully request that you schedule an additional committee hearing and additional member and staff briefings to review the open questions surrounding the September 11, 2012 terrorist attacks at the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya.

Recent reports indicate that senior State Department officials – at levels above those individuals found to be responsible in the Accountability Review Board report – were directly responsible for decisions about security staffing in Libya and therefore may have some measure of culpability. In addition, recent reports also indicate that the State Department was directly involved in making changes to the Intelligence Community's explanation of events on the ground that was provided to the House Intelligence Committee for public use; these changes may have been intended to minimize the State Department's culpability in failing to prepare for possible threats against U.S. government facilities in Libya.

Finally, to date, no resolution has occurred regarding employment status those State Department officials named in the ARB report as a result of their handling of events in Benghazi. It has been nearly eight months since the terrorist attacks in Benghazi, and numerous questions remain unanswered regarding the level of security leading up to the attacks and how the State Department and the administration responded to the attacks.

As the committee of primary jurisdiction, we believe that it is our responsibility to conduct additional oversight of our government's preparation and response to the attack on our diplomatic facilities that took the lives of four brave Americans. We would like to work with you to select the appropriate witnesses for a hearing, as well as the appropriate individuals to brief members and staff.

Please let us know your views on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker
Ranking Member



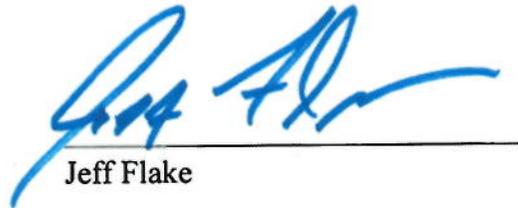
James E. Risch



Marco Rubio



Ron Johnson



Jeff Flake



John Barrasso



Rand Paul