

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

OCT - 3 2012

The Honorable Bob Corker  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

I appreciate that you and your colleagues are deeply interested in finding out what happened leading up to and during the attacks in Benghazi, and are looking for ways to prevent it from happening again. I share that commitment. Nobody will hold this Department more accountable than we hold ourselves – we served with Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Glen Doherty, and Tyrone Woods.

As you know, I have established an Accountability Review Board (ARB), which will be led by Ambassador Thomas Pickering. The ARB begins its work this week. It is charged with determining whether our security systems and procedures in Benghazi were adequate, whether those systems and procedures were properly implemented, and any lessons that may be relevant to our work around the world. I intend to share the ARB's findings and our response with the Congress, and would encourage you to withhold any final conclusions about the Benghazi attack until you can review the ARB's findings.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues as Congress proceeds with its own review. We are committed to a process that is as transparent as possible, respecting the needs and integrity of the investigations underway. We will move as quickly as we can without forsaking accuracy.

To that end, we have pledged to work with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on requests for information. We will work collaboratively with Congress to achieve the result we all want: a full and accurate accounting of the events and a path forward to prevent them from happening again.

Congress has been and must continue to be a full partner with us in providing for the security of our diplomatic and development professionals overseas, just as Congress provides for our troops. Together we must ensure all those who serve the United States overseas have the best protection we can provide as they pursue our interests all over the world – especially in places where that work is most difficult.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hillary", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the word.

Hillary Rodham Clinton