

United States Senate

August 20, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

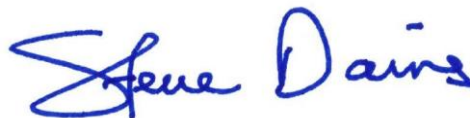
I write regarding the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan which has put American lives at risk and triggered a preventable humanitarian crisis. Taliban militants are now threatening innocent civilians and restricting evacuee movement using U.S. military equipment, which they obtained through a hasty withdrawal of U.S. forces. This matter requires your immediate attention.

As you know, since 2002 the United States has provided over \$82.9 billion in equipment, supplies, services, training, and funding to the Afghan National Army, Air Force, Special Forces, and Police. That assistance, through the Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF), included:

- Aircraft (AC-208, C-130, PC-12, A-29, UH-60, CH-47)
- Vehicles (HMMWVs, Light and Medium Tactical Vehicles, Mobile Strike Force Vehicles)
- Communications and intelligence equipment (aerostats and tower-based ISR, integrated radio architecture and network enterprise, cellular exploitation, Scan Eagle drones)
- Improvised explosive device countermeasures (bomb suits & helmets, Valon VMH3 mine detectors, EOD MMP-30 robots, blasting cap test sets)
- Clothing and organizational equipment (boots, helmets, blankets, and sleeping bags)
- Ammunition, fuel, and replacement parts

According to one Administration official, “everything that hasn't been destroyed is the Taliban's now.” Under normal military protocols, an accidental equipment mishap can trigger an automatic investigation and can have career-altering consequences for ordinary service members. Who in your Administration will be held accountable for this profound and preventable loss? Further, I ask you to explain to the American taxpayer your plan for preventing this equipment from being used for terrorist acts, propaganda, and funding; and to mitigate sensitive equipment from falling into the hands of our adversaries for intelligence or reverse-engineering purposes. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator