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One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2023

The Honorable Daniel B. Smith
U.S. Ambassador (Retired)
Transmitted Electronically

Dear Ambassador Smith:

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs (the Committee) is investigating the Biden Administration’s August 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan. As the official tasked to lead the State Department’s Afghanistan After-Action Review of the withdrawal, you are an important witness for this investigation. The Committee requests that you appear for a transcribed interview.

To arrange the transcribed interview, please contact the Committee’s majority staff at (202) 225-8467 no later than May 22, 2023.

Congress’ oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United State Supreme Court.¹ Under House Rule X, the Committee has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over “[r]elations of the United States with foreign nations generally,” “[d]iplomatic service,” and “[p]rotection of American citizens abroad and expatriation.”²

¹ See generally U.S. CONST. art. I, § 8, cl. 8; *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 174 (1927) (holding that “the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function”); *Eastland v. U.S. Servicemen’s Fund*, 421 U.S. 491, 504 (1975) (holding that “the power to investigate is inherent in the power to make laws”); *Barenblatt v. United States*, 360 U.S. 109, 111 (1959) (holding that “the scope of power of inquiry ... is as penetrating and far-reaching as the potential power to enact and appropriate under the Constitution.”).

² *Rules of the House of Representatives: One Hundred Eighteenth Congress*, U.S. HOUSE OF REP. 7 (Jan. 10, 2023), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee

CC:

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee