

## United States Senate

February 9, 2016

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING,  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
BUDGET  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I write today regarding the proposed sale to Pakistan of eight F-16 Block 52 aircraft (transmittal number 15-DB).

Having just returned from another trip to Afghanistan, I am still very troubled that the Pakistani government maintains a relationship with the Haqqani network. After years of pressuring the Pakistanis on this point, the Haqqani terrorists still enjoy freedom of movement, and possibly even support from the Pakistani government. This is highly problematic given the Haqqani's clear involvement in killing the very Afghan army and police we have worked for years to train, striking the government and people of Afghanistan we support in building a sustainable and responsible sovereign state, and—most infuriating—attempting to strike American forces and diplomats.

I fully understand that our relationship with Pakistan is both complicated and imperfect. Cooperation with Pakistan is important and has achieved some of our interests. Nonetheless, I also believe that many Pakistani activities are immensely problematic and continue to point to a duplicitous partner, moving sideways rather than forward in resolving regional challenges, as detailed above. Much as we would have liked to have moved away from a transactional relationship, it requires both sides to do so.

While it is my intention at this time to clear the sale of eight F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, I do not plan to support the expenditure of the very limited Foreign Military Financing (FMF) account to finance this deal, now or in the future. Further, I reiterate my present hold on the release of funds via CN 15-319. I may reconsider my blanket hold on U.S. FMF assistance should the Pakistanis make progress on addressing my significant concerns about their support for the Haqqani network, but for now if they wish to purchase this military equipment, they will do so without a subsidy from the American taxpayer.

I appreciate your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



BOB CORKER  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

CC: The Honorable Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense