United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are pleased to see that Finland and Sweden have announced their intent to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. As members of the Senate with responsibility for providing advice and consent on treaties, we write to convey our full support for Sweden and Finland's applications for NATO membership. We are fully committed to doing our part to expedite ratification of the Washington Treaty to ensure their quick accession to NATO. Similarly, we ask that you expedite the process in the Executive Branch to ensure that the United States moves quickly to bring two capable and committed partners into our alliance as swiftly as possible.

As you know, NATO has been the bedrock of European security and the global order since the end of World War II. Furthermore, as Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has proven, NATO, along with our democratic partners around the world, is more united than ever in opposition to the illegal acts of war waged by President Putin. Expanding NATO to include Finland and Sweden will send a clear message to Vladimir Putin, and any leader that attempts to follow in his path, that the free world stands ready to defend its values and sovereignty. We will also continue to support NATO's open-door policy, which affirms that new members are welcome to the alliance.

As our NATO allies rallied to support the United States after September 11th, 2001, we stand ready to assist them now as they face increasing acts of aggression from Putin's Russia and its proxies. NATO enlargement to include Finland and Sweden will further bolster the alliance, providing crucial military and diplomatic capabilities that will help NATO address urgent security challenges and new and emerging threats. In addition, as Sweden and Finland advance through the NATO membership process, we reiterate our full support for the United States to provide mutual security assurances to the governments of Sweden and Finland. Should these two allies face threats or acts of aggression prior to their potential accession to the alliance, the United States should commit our full support.

Members of the U.S. Senate take seriously our role in advising and consenting to NATO enlargement, a process that must be approved by all NATO member states. We affirm our support for Sweden and Finland's applications for membership. In addition, we pledge to work closely with you and with our Senate colleagues to ensure that their applications are swiftly considered and approved by the Senate.

The transatlantic alliance has never been more crucial to global security and stability. The addition of these two important allies to NATO will ensure the alliance's resilience and readiness, and we look forward to welcoming Sweden and Finland to NATO.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Mitch McConnell
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Ben Sasse
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Mitt Romney
United States Senator

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

John Thune
United States Senator

Chuck Grassley
United States Senator

Bill Hagerty
United States Senator

Pat Toomey
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez-Masto
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Chris Murphy
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Tim Scott
United States Senator

Tom Cotton
United States Senator

Richard Burr
United States Senator

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator

Todd Young
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

Roger W. Marshall
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Mike Crapo
United States Senator