

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552
May 8, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

I write to you today with regard to the proposal to establish a 'Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi.' In my district, we continue to grieve the loss of San Diegans Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, Glen Doherty and Ambassador Chris Stevens. These were brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and security. Their families deserve to know what happened and why and it is my hope that a complete understanding of the facts will provide them with a sense of closure.

I am open to supporting the establishment of a Select Committee to ensure that Congress and the American people have full information surrounding these tragic events. However, I am concerned that there may not be equity in the Committee as it is presently proposed. For an inquiry of this type to be above reproach and credible, it must be truly bipartisan. I ask that you appoint bipartisan co-chairs, not a Chair with a Ranking Member, and that you allow an equal number of Democrats and Republicans to serve on the Committee. I ask your assurance that both Republicans and Democrats be able to call, subpoena, and examine witnesses. With this structure and these assurances, I will vote to create the committee.

The events in Benghazi have already received extensive attention, and too much of the examination of this tragedy has been one-sided and political. A meaningful investigation as serious as this demands sober and rigorous treatment. Out of respect for the fallen and their families, we must do everything in our power to ensure that the Select Committee is not a political tool.

I am confident that you and I share this goal for the Select Committee and hope you will agree to my proposal.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress