

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

July 9, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

Dear President Obama and Secretary Kerry:

June 30, 2013, marked the fourth year since Army Sergeant Bowe Robert Bergdahl disappeared from his base and Afghan forces reported his capture by the Taliban. I understand that since his capture in 2009, the Taliban has used Sgt. Bergdahl as collateral in proposed prisoner swaps and that there have been multiple attempts to secure a negotiated settlement for Sgt. Bergdahl's release. In conjunction with the veterans' community, I am deeply concerned over this situation and the ongoing negotiations surrounding his release.

Recent reports have cited that reaching a settlement for Sgt. Bergdahl's return constitutes a major priority for the administration. While I am pleased to learn that this has elevated to a top priority, I want to ensure that the administration and State Department are taking every measure possible to secure Sgt. Bergdahl's release. It is imperative that prior to the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, our nation fulfills its promise to our heroes that we "Leave No Man Behind," on or off the battlefield.

Understanding the sensitive nature of this issue, I would greatly appreciate a briefing, classified or unclassified, so that I can more appropriately monitor the situation.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress