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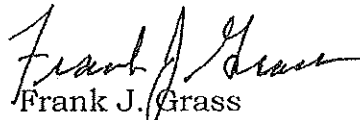
The Honorable Carl M. Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Senator Levin,

I am writing to respond to your letter dated June 17, 2014, wherein you asked if I supported the Secretary's decision to exchange five Taliban detainees for SGT Bowe Bergdahl.

It is my personal assessment that the pledge to bring our service members home from captivity is sacred within the military community and our nation. SGT Bergdahl is a soldier in the U.S. Army, held captive by insurgents affiliated with the Taliban for nearly five years. It is my understanding that an assessment was conducted to mitigate the risks posed by the release of the five Taliban detainees and the decision was made that an exchange was appropriate. I support the efforts to bring SGT Bergdahl home.

Sincerely,


Frank J. Grass
General, U.S. Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau