Chief of Staff John Kelly

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

August 8, 2017

Dear General Kelly,

**I want to make you aware of an URGENT National Security issue that should be brought to your attention.** This issue is surrounding “The Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack,” otherwise known as “The EMP Commission” – the foremost authority in our nation on the threat from EMP. A short but thorough summary of the Commission and this current issue can be found in Ambassador Hank Cooper’s recent article here: <http://highfrontier.org/july-25-2017-no-way-to-provide-for-the-common-defense/>

**Funding for the Congressional EMP Commission, which was delayed for a year by the Department of Defense ended on July 31, 2017.** Even worse, the House Armed Services Committee / House version of the 2018 NDAA includes a provision that would uproot the legislative foundations of the original EMP Commission and replace the EMP Commissioners with parties unknown. Thus, the House language would destroy the continuity in the work the Commission has carried out over the last decade and a half, and allow members of your Department of Defense staff to delay its support to the Commission once again.

**This is a failure of our nation’s Defense Department to act in the interest of national security with respect to EMP—not just for DoD interests but for the interest of protecting the American people against both natural and man-made EMP threats**. In short, with this NDAA, the HASC and your DoD will dismantle the only technically competent moderating influence in understanding and charting associated ways to rectify the dysfunctional Federal Government in protecting the American people against the existential threat of EMP.

In the words of your fellow Marine, General Mattis, **“You cannot allow any of your people to avoid the brutal facts. If they start living in a dream world, it’s going to be bad.”** Sir, there are some in our Defense Department that continue to live in a dream world when it comes to threats to the U.S. Electric Grid. Their obstruction of the Congressional EMP Commission and the active measures some DOD employees have taken to dismantle this important group of experts will profoundly degrade the national security of the United States. As you know, our Defense Department depends upon the same unprotected grid as the rest of America’s citizenry, so EVERYONE is counting on you take action to protect this most critical infrastructure, or to at least use your influence to ensure that some federal agency does.

**I urge you, John, to recommend to our Commander in Chief that he take action to make the EMP Commission a “Presidential Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection” answerable to the White House and thereby protect the EMP Commission from the obstructive political forces and self-interests that prevail in Congress and elsewhere in government.**

It is urgently important to avoid a delay in efforts to protect the American people from the effects of EMP. We are hopeful, for the sake of the DoD and the American people, that you and our President will take action to preserve and elevate the original Congressional EMP Commission, enabling its vital work to continue and moving our nation closer to developing the solutions necessary to secure us against this threat.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your address