Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned, are deeply troubled by your recent comments that you are considering Ambassador Susan Rice to succeed Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State. Though Ambassador Rice has been our Representative to the U.N., we believe her misleading statements over the days and weeks following the attack on our embassy in Libya that led to the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and three other Americans caused irreparable damage to her credibility both at home and around the world.

In her interviews over that time, Ambassador Rice propagated a falsehood that the attacks were "spontaneous," the outcome of a protest "spun out of control," and the result of a YouTube video. Only on September 19 – eight days after the attack – did the American people learn from National Counterterrorism Director Matthew Olsen that the intelligence services quickly considered the attack an act of terrorism and that al Qaeda may have played a role.

Ambassador Rice is widely viewed as having either willfully or incompetently misled the American public in the Benghazi matter. Her actions plausibly give U.S. allies (and rivals) abroad reason to question U.S. commitment and credibility when needed. Thus, we believe that making her the face of U.S. foreign policy in your second term would greatly undermine your desire to improve U.S. relations with the world and continue to build trust with the American people.

As you know, there have been repeated Congressional requests for information on the events of September 11, 2012. Over the past month, our Senate colleagues have sent 13 separate letters to senior Administration officials, including to you. Many Members of the House of Representatives have also sent letters requesting answers. Our questions remain unanswered, and your Administration continues to deny Congress access to critical information necessary for effective oversight.

Recent reports of discrepancies between the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency's public timelines of the events on September 11 only exacerbate the problem, and we believe these inconsistencies deserve closer examination.

In light of this troubling situation and the continued unanswered questions, we strongly oppose any efforts to nominate Ambassador Susan Rice for the position of Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

Jeff Duncan (SC-03)
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul (TX-10)
Member of Congress

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Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03)
Member of Congress

Joseph Pitts (PA-16)
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce (NM-02)
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn (TN-07)
Member of Congress

John Culberson (TX-07)
Member of Congress

Jeff Landry (LA-03)
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold (TX-27)
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Member of Congress

Steve Southerland (FL-02)
Member of Congress

Paul Broun (GA-10)
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey (GA-11)
Member of Congress

Dan Lungren (CA-03)
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas (OK-03)
Member of Congress

Dan Burton (IN-05)
Member of Congress

Steve King (IA-05)
Member of Congress

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (WI-05)
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher (TN-08)
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers (NC-02)
Member of Congress

Ted Poe (TX-02)
Member of Congress

Tom Marino (PA-10)
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot (OH-10)
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48)
Member of Congress

Chris Smith (NJ-04)
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita (IN-04)
Member of Congress

Joe Barton (TX-06)
Member of Congress

Marlin Stutzman (IN-03)
Member of Congress

Michele Bachmann (MN-06)
Member of Congress

John Carter (TX-31)
Member of Congress

Phil Roe (TN-01)
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon (IN-08)
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)
Member of Congress

David McKinley (WV-01)
Member of Congress

John Fleming (LA-04)
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Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
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Mick Mulvaney (SC-05)
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus (AL-06)
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Paul Gosar (AZ-01)
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo (KS-04)
Member of Congress

John Mica (FL-07)
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady (TX-08)
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant (TX-24)
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop (UT-01)
Member of Congress

Jeff Denham (CA-10)
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan (OH-04)
Member of Congress

David Schweikert (AZ-06)
Member of Congress

Tom Graves (GA-09)
Member of Congress

Tom Price (GA-06)
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross (FL-12)
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Billy Long (MO-07)
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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-21)
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Scott DesJarlais (TN-04)
Member of Congress

Bill Flores (TX-17)
Member of Congress

Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-25)
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
Member of Congress

Candice Miller (MI-10)
Member of Congress

Roscoe Bartlett (MD-06)
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Robert Aderholt (AL-04)
Member of Congress

Tom Cole (OK-04)
Member of Congress

Chip Cravaack (MN-08)
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Allen West (FL-22)
Member of Congress

Trey Gowdy (SC-04)
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall (TX-04)
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs (OH-18)
Member of Congress

Nan Hayworth (NY-19)
Member of Congress

Diane Black (TN-06)
Member of Congress

Tim Scott (SC-01)
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt (OH-02)
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise (LA-01)
Member of Congress

Francisco "Quico" Canseco (TX-23)
Member of Congress

Don Young (AK – At Large)
Member of Congress

Alan Nunnelee (MS-01)
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith (TX-21)
Member of Congress

Sue Myrick (NC-09)
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis (WY – At Large)
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins (KS-02)
Member of Congress

Michael Turner (OH-03)
Member of Congress

John Campbell (CA-48)
Member of Congress

Connie Mack (FL-14)
Member of Congress

Sandy Adams (FL-24)
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren (IL-14)
Member of Congress

Cory Gardner (CO-04)
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin (AR-02)
Member of Congress

Charles W. Boustany, Jr. MD (LA-07)
Member of Congress