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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 17, 2019

Dr. Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Esper:

I am concerned that President Trump's reckless withdrawal of American troops from Syria is jeopardizing regional stability and our troops' safety while costing the American people billions of unnecessary dollars. I wish to know how much the Department of Defense has spent to destroy and abandon military facilities and equipment in Syria – including construction, transfer, and procurement costs pertaining to destroyed and abandoned facilities and equipment – since the President's unilateral decision to withdraw from Syria.

The United States Congress never authorized the presence of military forces in Syria, and I continue to oppose any unauthorized military action by American forces. That does not mean, however, that I support poor decision-making while withdrawing troops from current conflicts or spending American taxpayer dollars in a foolish manner.

As Congress continues to consider a possible \$53 billion increase to the Department of Defense budget for the next fiscal year, it is imperative that we receive the information requested above.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pocan', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress