United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 6, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We write to express our opposition to your decision to transfer a Somali-based terrorist, Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, to the United States for civilian trial.

As an unlawful combatant, Mr. Warsame wore no uniform and fought for no country. He is not an American citizen and was not captured on American soil. Mr. Warsame should have been detained outside the United States and, if necessary, tried by military commission.

Your decision to grant this terrorist full U.S. Constitutional rights and to try him in a civilian court on American soil reverses U.S. policy and legal precedent, and adds unnecessary costs and risks to local governments and populations.

Under your decision, Mr. Warsame will be prosecuted as a civilian with considerable expense and time diverted from U.S. criminal cases. His prosecution will trigger more Jihadist attention to the city and court where the prosecution will take place.

We urge you to reconsider your policy of bringing terrorists to the U.S. homeland for prosecution. We also ask that you provide the Congress with an estimate of the added expense to be incurred by federal and local police to protect the court involved.

Sincerely,

Olympia Snowe

Susan Collins

John Boozman

Chuck Grassley

Michael B. Enzi

Saxby Chambliss

Kelly Ayotte

Ron Johnson

Scott P. Brown

John Cornyn

Mike Crapo

Richard Shelby

Thad Cochran

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Mitch McConnell

John McCain

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