Jim Mattis

Secretary of Defense

1000 Defense Pentagon

Washington D.C. 20301-1000

August 4, 2017

Dear General Mattis,

**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 you lead, 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 your 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 your own words, **“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.”** General, there are some in your 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. Your 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, General, to root out those in your Defense Department who have disrupted and dismantled the EMP Commission.** Furthermore I urge you to investigate why your Department of Defense is withholding from public distribution (and has even overly classified) important data and technology that underlies protection against EMP, including the U.S. version of key test results provided in the 1990s by Russian scientists to U.S. scientists and engineers.This data is vital to the civilian electric utility companies and technology companies who need to work urgently to protect the electric grid from EMP. **Without access to the 50+ years-worth of EMP-related data and expertise within DOD, our nation’s electric utility industry will – at best – rely on their own sub-standard studies and – at worst – actively avoid taking the necessary steps to protect their assets.**

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 YOUR OWN DoD and the American people, that you, General Mattis, take action to preserve 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