

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon, Room 3E970
Washington, DC 20301-1300

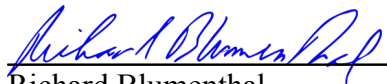
Dear Attorney General Bondi and Secretary Hegseth:

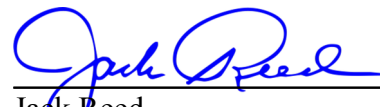
We are writing to request expeditious declassification and public release of the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel's written opinion, dated September 5, 2025, concerning the domestic and international legal basis for recent military strikes of certain vessels near South America and the Caribbean, with appropriate redactions necessary to protect military personnel and sensitive intelligence matters.

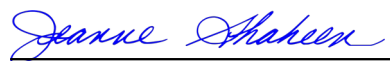
Significant and noteworthy precedent exists for the public release of OLC opinions related to overseas military action. After the United States carried out military strikes in Libya in 2011 and in Syria in 2018, the Department of Justice released the applicable OLC opinion justifying each operation.

Few decisions are more consequential for a democracy than the use of lethal force. We therefore believe that the declassification and public release of this important document would enhance transparency in the use of deadly force by our Nation's military and is necessary to ensure Congress and the American people are fully informed of the legal justification supporting these strikes.

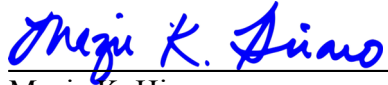
Sincerely,


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

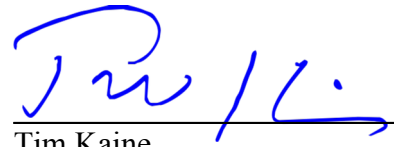

Jack Reed
United States Senator


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

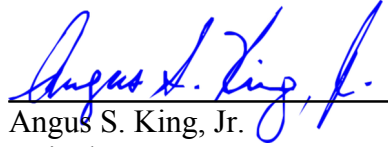

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



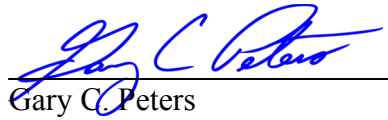
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



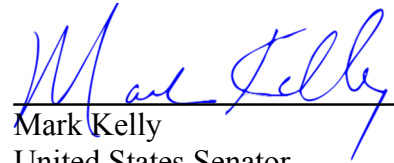
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator