

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2018

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

For the past five years, we have led the House and Senate in their opposition to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which your predecessor signed in September 2013, and which his administration transmitted to the Senate in December 2016.

During these years, Congress has repeatedly passed, and the President signed into law, bans on funding for implementing the ATT prior to its ratification by the Senate. The most recent such ban was in the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which you signed into law on December 12, 2017, which in Sec. 1279B contained a "Limitation on Availability of Funds to Implement the Arms Trade Treaty."

We are therefore disturbed to see in the ATT's official statement of income that, over the past two years, the United States has paid some \$187,000 to the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty, and that the U.S. is, leaving aside in-kind contributions, the second most important funder of the ATT.

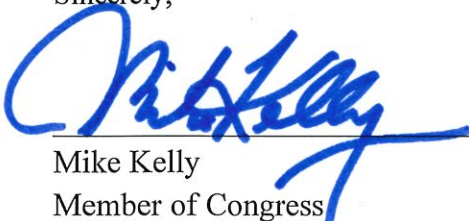
The conference report on Sec. 1279B contains an understanding that the U.S. was expending these funds to participate in the annual ATT Conference of States Parties (CSP). But according to the ATT Secretariat's provisional budget for 2018, U.S. funds are not being used only to support U.S. participation. They are being used to fund a significant share – approximately 40 percent – of the entire 2018 CSP.


In short even though the U.S. has not ratified the ATT, we are paying for a conference that – as its name implies – is primarily for the 94 states parties to the treaty, and which should be funded primarily by them. It is particularly egregious that the U.S. is providing this funding when the rest of the world is delinquent in its assessed contributions to the treaty to the tune of \$575,000, or over 21 percent of their assessed total.

We write to ask under what program and budget item the payments were made, were you aware of these payments, does your administration support making similar payments in the future, and if it believes that these payments are consonant with the understanding that U.S. funding was being used only to support U.S. participation in the CSP.

Like every Republican member of the Senate, and the overwhelming majority of Republicans in the House, the Republican Platform on which you were elected in 2016 opposes U.S. ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty. We urge you to act promptly to end the disproportionate payments the U.S. is making to support the ATT's CSP, and to remove the U.S. signature from the ATT by unsigning the treaty.

Sincerely,


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress


Jerry Moran
U.S Senator