

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
442 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Portman:

We respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs consider and report S. 407, the *Air America Act of 2021*, to the full Senate as soon as possible.

The bill, which was first introduced last Congress, would ensure the brave employees of Air America receive the retirement benefits they have earned. As you may be aware, Air America was a government-owned corporation that conducted covert operations during the Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War and operated under the direct policy control of the White House, Department of Defense, and the Department of State while under the management of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The fight to ensure Air America employees receive the benefits they have earned is not a partisan issue, nor is it a new issue. Legislation to provide benefits to Air America employees was first introduced by then Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) in 2005. The bill currently has 29 bipartisan cosponsors, including five members of your committee from both sides of the aisle. Over the last 16 years, the Office of Personnel Management, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the CIA and the Director of National Intelligence have all concluded that Congressional action is required. It is time for Congress to act.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to consider and report this important bill to the full Senate as soon as possible.

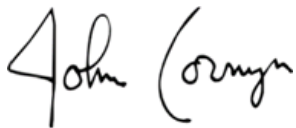
Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn
U.S. Senator