

TOM REED  
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
OVERSIGHT  
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
1504 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3223  
PHONE: (202) 225-3161

[www.reed.house.gov](http://www.reed.house.gov)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 5, 2013

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Your role as Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces is perhaps the most difficult of the duties with which you are tasked. The magnitude of your responsibility to ensure the well-being of our servicemen and women and our nation cannot be understated. It is with this in mind that I want to reiterate my belief that the decision to use our military in hostile situations is one that must be made with the utmost caution and deliberation, in consultation with not only Congress, but with all Americans.

I appreciate your decision to seek authorization from the U.S. Congress before taking action in the on-going civil war in Syria. Seeking authorization is in line with what our founders intended and reflects the significance of the decision to use force. We have already seen substantive and open debate as a result of your request. This is to the benefit of all. However, I urge you to consider that your Administration not only needs to convince Congress that military intervention is right and necessary, but you must also convince the American people. To that end, I ask that you formally address the nation to explain why action in Syria is in our country's best interest and to clearly define the goals of the mission.

As the Representative of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I have held listening sessions on Syria across my district to gather input and listen to concerns. My constituents expressed sadness over the tragic loss of life in Syria. We are all disgusted by events which have cost innocent life. At the same time, many question whether American military action will fix the situation or encourage a peaceful resolution. My constituents are concerned about being drawn into a lengthy conflict which may ultimately require increased involvement and put American lives at risk. These are valid concerns which they have not received answers to from your Administration.

It is my duty as a Representative to reflect the views and interests of my constituents. Americans are engaged and ready to listen, in my district and across the nation. If you believe using military intervention is the right and necessary action which will prevent future bloodshed, I urge you to make that case directly to every American. I look forward to hearing more detail on why you feel this is the best course of action at this time.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

CORNING DISTRICT OFFICE  
89 WEST MARKET STREET  
CORNING, NY 14830  
PHONE: (607) 654-7566

GENEVA DISTRICT OFFICE  
433 EXCHANGE STREET  
GENEVA, NY 14456  
PHONE: (315) 759-5229

OLEAN DISTRICT OFFICE  
1 BLUEBIRD SQUARE  
OLEAN, NY 14760  
PHONE: (716) 379-8434

JAMESTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE  
2 EAST 2ND STREET, SUITE 300  
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701  
PHONE: (716) 708-6369

ITHACA DISTRICT OFFICE  
401 EAST STATE STREET, SUITE 304-1  
ITHACA, NY 14850  
PHONE: (607) 222-2027