



Patrick Black <gmgodrich@gmail.com>

Email from Senator Sanders

1 message

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders <Senator@sanders.senate.gov>

Thu, Sep 5, 2013 at 1:50 PM

To: gmgodrich@gmail.com



Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for contacting me about the possibility of a military strike by the United States against the Assad regime in Syria. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns regarding this very important issue.

I intend to keep an open mind with regard to the president's proposal for military strikes, but at this point I have serious reservations. These reservations are shared by many Vermonters who are contacting my office – the overwhelming majority in opposition to our involvement in the Syrian civil war. I think we all understand that Assad is a ruthless dictator and that his use of chemical weapons is abhorrent and a violation of international law. Many Vermonters, however, worry that our involvement in a third Middle East war in 12 years may make a very bad situation even worse.

Here are my concerns. First, a largely dysfunctional Congress has difficulty today focusing on the very serious issues facing our country: the disappearing middle class, high unemployment, low wages, the high cost of college, the decline of our manufacturing sector and the planetary crisis of global warming. I fear very much that U.S. involvement in another war in the Middle East, and the cost of that war, will make it even harder for Congress to protect working families.

Second, as someone who voted against the war in Iraq, I worry that while the president talks about 'surgical strikes' and a limited engagement by our military, there is no doubt that many members of Congress support 'regime change' in Syria and much deeper involvement. If that policy prevails, there is no question that it could cost tens of billions of dollars and the possible future involvement of

American troops.

Third, I am concerned that the United States would be going into a war almost unilaterally without the support of the United Nations or NATO. If we are concerned about international stability, this sets a very dangerous precedent that other countries could use in the future

I very much appreciate hearing your views on the possibility of a U.S. military strike in Syria, and please be assured I will keep your thoughts in mind when the full Senate debates this issue.

Again, thank you for contacting me, and please feel free to contact me in the future about any subject of interest to you. Please be aware that that postal mail sent to my Washington, D.C. office is subject to security screening that significantly lengthens the time it takes me to respond. The fastest ways to contact my office are by calling [1-800-339-9834](tel:1-800-339-9834) or by e-mailing me via the website. For up-to-date information on what my office is working on, please visit www.sanders.senate.gov. While there, I invite you to sign up for my e-newsletter, the Bernie Buzz, at <http://sandersonline.gov/buzz/>.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator