

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

November 30, 2020

Dear Mr. President,

We write to express our deep concern with your attempt to dispose of the two specially equipped OC-135B planes the U.S. has used to carry out Open Skies flights and strongly urge you to cease any attempts to liquidate them.

The Open Skies Treaty is an important agreement to try to prevent military confrontation and the U.S. has used these planes to carryout Open Skies flights. Removing them with no plans to buy new planes to replace them will put our county and national security at great risk.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that these decisions have only one potential beneficiary: Russia as it increases its interference with the nations on its western borders. Blinding our allies to attempted Russian aggression is harmful and dangerous. The decision to keep the OC-135Bs or to scrap them should be left to the next Administration.

Additionally, you continue to flout the law and Congressional intent in your attempt to cripple our critical national security decisions. Section 1234 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which you signed, required you to notify Congress 120 days in advance of announcing your intent to leave the treaty. You have failed to comply with that provision.

We urge you to cease the attempts to liquidate the OC-135B planes and to allow the incoming, duly elected administration the ability to implement its policy goals as the principle of the peaceful transfer of power demands.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Don Beyer
Member of Congress