



Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

February 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During a recent televised interview, you were asked about the case of wrongfully imprisoned U.S. Army Lieutenant Clint Lorange and whether you would consider the issuance of a pardon. As a Marine Corps veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and someone who is acutely familiar with Clint's ordeal, I want to register my strong support for a pardon and respectfully encourage you to personally review the full facts of his case.

Currently, Clint is serving a 19-year sentence for giving an order to his fellow soldiers to shoot and kill two Afghan men moving in the direction of their convoy and presenting a threat. For the record, Clint never fired his weapon. More importantly, previously withheld information now confirms forensic evidence linked DNA found on detonated roadside bombs to the DNA of the Afghan men. As you know, roadside bombs have been the primary source of troop casualties through the course of the war in Afghanistan.

Worth noting, several soldiers took issue with Clint's leadership and it is my belief that both Clint's character and his actions were misrepresented by these individuals. This is not atypical in military investigations, often when personalities come into play, but the process for offering soldiers immunity in exchange for their testimony can regularly lead to inaccurate or out of context characterizations—I believe this is the case with Clint. I have worked similar cases over time, through my career in Congress, and Clint's case is consistent with irregularities in other cases that have prompted either review or reversal.

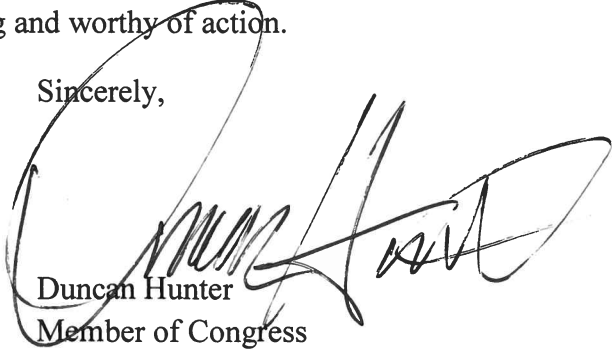
More broadly, we cannot forget that war fosters dangerous and unpredictable situations and, in Clint's specific case, he was a young Lieutenant tasked to lead men into combat and protect them at all cost. It's easy to second-guess what are split-second decisions in combat, but to question Clint's actions for the purpose of seeking a murder conviction and a 19-year prison sentence blatantly ignores the realities of war—and the threats our military continues to face in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

In support of Clint, I appealed to former President Barack Obama but that appeal went unanswered. Instead, he reviewed and commuted the sentence of Chelsea Manning without, I

presume, giving Clint the respect of a review in order to at least consider a pardon. I am confident that upon reviewing the facts of this case, and consulting with both Clint and his legal team, you will find the case compelling and worthy of action.

Sincerely,

SMR #1



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress