United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

On August 11, 2026, we wrote to you about a reported counternarcotics operation carried out jointly by the United States and Ecuador in the remote village of San Martin on the banks of the San Miguel River bordering Ecuador and Colombia. In that letter, a copy of which is attached, we asked several questions and we are waiting to receive your answers. As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to oversee U.S. military activities and ensure that taxpayer dollars are used lawfully and effectively. Accordingly, in addition to the questions asked in our previous letter, we request your answers to the following by December 11, 2026:

1. What specific intelligence led to this operation?
2. Which U.S. or Ecuadorian officials selected and approved each of the targets?
3. Where was the operation planned—in the United States, Ecuador, or another location?
4. Did the Department determine that each target could be lawfully attacked? If so, on what factual and legal basis did the Department determine that each target could be lawfully attacked?
5. Was a civilian-harm or collateral-damage estimate conducted before the strikes? If so, please provide a copy of those estimates. If not, why not?
6. How many U.S. personnel, if any, were in Ecuador for the operation, what U.S. units or agencies were involved, and where were they located?
7. What did U.S. military personnel do before, during, and immediately following the operation?
8. Which Ecuadorian military units were involved, and what did they do?
9. Is there an impact report or investigation of what the operation achieved? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Peter Welch
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator